Rye Valley FCE 1995



Don Simmons Jr.

The rural community of Sugar Grove lies nestled beneath the mountains of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.



Don Simmons Jr.

THEY PRESENTED UNTO HIM GIFTS: This nativity scene in front of Wharf Hill Methodist Church in Sugar Grove delicately captures the origins of Christmas and its spirit of giving. Wise men come bearing gifts for the newborn child as mother and father look on. This was one of many nativity scenes set up around Smyth County.

Rye Valley FCE
A Birds Eye View
of
Our World
1995

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

The Extension Homemakers Club is a community or neighborhood organization with elected officers. Club usually meets once a month. It is the aim to have such a club within the reach of every homemaker. Anyone is eligible for membership regardless of race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin. The program of Extension Homemaker Clubs officer persons an opportunity to give as well as receive. The club becomes a part of the community. It carries on a continuous educational program and works with other organizations for community betterment under the leadership of the Extension Office.

OUR AIM IS TO MAKE EVERY HOME . . .

Economically Sound, Mechanically Convenient, Physically Healthful, Morally Stimulating, Socially Responsible, Spiritually Inspiring, and Founded upon Mutual Affection and Respect.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Extension Homemakers work in health and charitable drives such as: March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Sickle Cell Anemia, Red Cross, Cancer Crusade, Southwestern State Hopsital, Bloodmobile, County Historical Foundation, County Fairs and Festivals, and Animal Welfare.



Rye Valley 1995



Pres. Eva Jarvis



Left to Right
Peggy Jarvis
Ethel Keyes
Nell Ross
Thelma Hawthorn
Mary Jane Blaker
Ella Mae Medley
Genevieve Bowen
Roberta Hayton
Helen Long
Irene Jarvis
Polly Earnest
Darlene Earnest





Refreshments
Dec. 1994





Achievement Day 1994

Peggy Jarvis
Corlane Barnett
Eva Jarvis
Nell Ross
Ella Mae Presley
Polly Earnest
Joy Scott

1995

JANUARY

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IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY
1 New Year's Day
15 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY
12 Lincoln's Birthday
14 Valentine's Day
20 Washington - Lincoln Day
22 Washington's Birthday

MARCH
1 Ash Wednesday
17 St. Patrick's Day

APRIL
2 Daylight Saving Time begins
9 Palm Sunday
14 Good Friday
15 Passover
16 Easter Sunday
26 Professional Secretaries Day

MAY
14 Mother's Day
20 Armed Forces Day
22 Victoria Day (Canada)
29 Memorial Day - Obsvd.
30 Memorial Day

JUNE
14 Flag Day
18 Father's Day
24 St-Jean (Quebec)

JULY
1 Canada Day (Canada)
4 Independence Day

SEPTEMBER
4 Labor Day
25 Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER
4 Yom Kippur
9 Columbus Day - Obsvd.
9 Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
12 Columbus Day
24 United Nations Day
29 Daylight Saving Time ends
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER
7 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
11 Remembrance Day (Canada)
23 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER
18 Hanukkah
25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day (Canada)

JULY

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Picnick Lunch

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DECEMBER

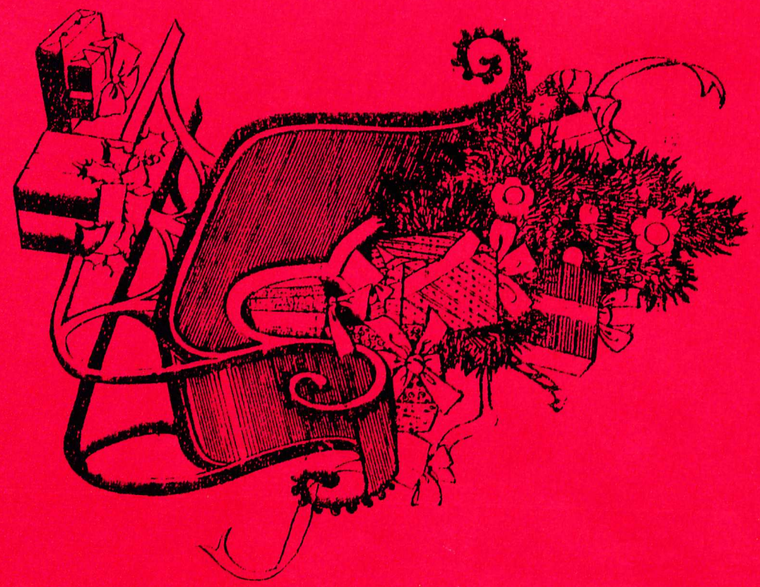
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SMYTH
COUNTY
EXTENSION
HOMEMAKERS
CLUBS

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION SERVICE COUNCIL
HOME FAMILY COMMUNITY

YEARBOOK
1995

NAME Nell Ross



FROM THE PAST



time you get to thinking your job is rough, think about these fellows. According to Virginia Kirby, who submitted this
ture, this was taken at the rock quarry behind the train station, probably about 100 years ago.

Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension



Joy Scott

Mrs. Eva Jarvis
P. O. Box 3
Sugar Grove, VA 24

Dear Eva:

We would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for assisting with the Health Fair at the Sugar Grove School.

If we at the Smyth County Extension Office can ever be of assistance, please let us know.

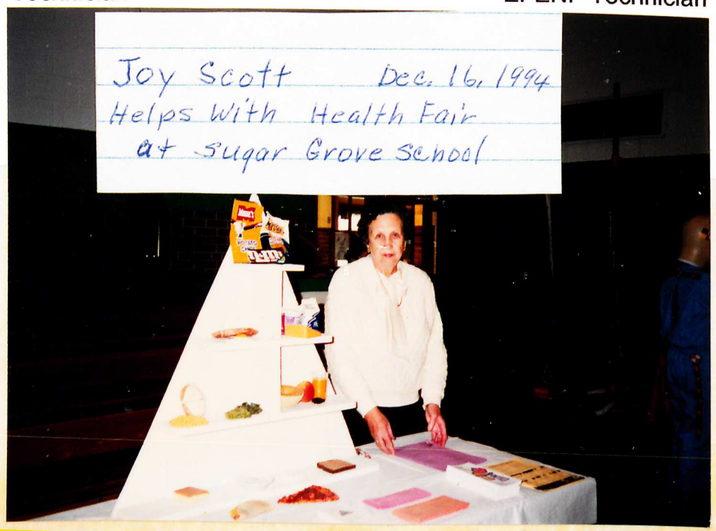
Hope you have a happy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Brenda Eller
Brenda C. Eller
EFNEP Technician

Judy Wilson
Judy M. Wilson
EFENP Technician

moh



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Smyth County Extension Office
P. O. Box 510
Marion, VA 24354

November 18, 1994

TO: Smyth County FCE Members

Dear Club Member:

The FCE Annual Achievement Day will be held Saturday, December 10 at the Adwolfe Fire Hall. This will be a potluck dinner and lunch will be served at 12 noon. The program with special entertainment will follow the meal. The County Council will provide meat, coffee or tea. A drink machine is available. Each member is asked to bring two dishes (vegetable, salad, dessert). Each club is responsible for a $5 door prize. Club presidents are requested to call the Extension Office at 783-5175 to let us know how many from your club will be attending by Friday, December 2.

Scrapbook chairmen are asked to have the scrapbooks in to the Extension Office by Thursday, December 1 so they can be judged.

Also, the doll dresses for the Department of Social Services are due Thursday, December 1. You may bring these to the Extension Office.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 10.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Robinson
Walter J. Robinson
Extension Agent

moh

Land-Grant Universities—The Commonwealth Is Our Campus
Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.
Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age,

JANUARY 1995

Jan. 1995

Hostess-
Devotional - Nell Ross
Leader - President - Eva Jarvis
Business - Roll Call - 13 Members present.
Treasure's Report - Not complete
Program - Getting organized for 1995
Planned Years Activities for 1995
Selected Hostesses and Leaders
Leaders -
Jan - Eva - Evaluation and planning
Feb - Nell Ross - Programs planned
March - Polly - Self Defence
April - Peggy - Flower arrangement + Decorations
May - (Ellamae) (Polly) (Eva) Rip offs + scams by Ellen Greene
June - Treva + Peggy - Cake decoration
July - Club Choice - outing
Aug. - Thelma Hawthorne
Sept. Polly + Eva Creative ent -
Oct. - Genevieve + Roberta - Simple Christmas Decorations
Nov - Polly + Eva - A Turkey Meal
Dec - Club Choice - Christmas meal

Virginia is for strawberries?

Strawberry lovers will find plenty of the tasty fruit to love this spring in Virginia, according to a survey conducted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation May 16.

Twenty strawberry growers around the state were polled in an informal telephone survey and growers in all regions of the state reported excellent quality berries.

"We got the plants in at the right time, added the right amount of fertilizer, and underground water units allowed us to get through the dry early spring," leading to a bumper crop this year, said Carol Thomas with the Chesterfield Berry Farm Market in Chesterfield County.

Eastern Virginia and Central Virginia pick-your-own proprietors for the most part opened their fields two weeks ago.

Many Northern Virginia fields will open in two weeks, while berry growers in southwest Virginia should begin picking next week. ❑



Music at Achievement Day.

HOME FAMILY COMMUNITY

Sugar Grove School

Grade 4

All A's: Adam Davis, Allison Lowe, Brittany Parks, Shelly Slemp, Nicole Woods, Sarah Woods.

A's & B's: Brandy Armstrong, Natasha Deel, Kimberly Parks, Cassi Schneider.





Above Roger Moore of Sugar Grove stands at the bank of Cressy's Creek which caused several thousand dollars in property damage when it flooded last weekend. Nearby residents complain that regulations are making it difficult to remove cobblestone buildup (in foreground) which keeps heavy waters from flowing easily downstream.
At right, (from left) Sugar Grove residents Wilma Ward, Judy Jones, Graham Hale, and Don Medley discuss creek-cleaning problems with local game warden Tony Adams.

Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Smyth County Extension Office
P. O. Box 510
Marion, VA 24354

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1882

January 10, 1995

TO: Smyth FCE Members

Dear Member:

The FCE program for January in Washington County will be a county-wide meeting with a special speaker presenting Enjoying Wildflowers. Mr. Edward J. Fletcher from Pinola, North Carolina will be conducting this program. Mr. Fletcher is co-owner and manager of the world famous Gardens in the Blue Ridge.

The program will be Monday, January 16 at 2 p.m. in Ratliff Hall at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. There will be a $5 registration fee which covers the speaker's fee, travel and meeting room costs. Enclosed is an information sheet giving you details of the program.

If you plan to attend, give us a call at 783-5175 by Friday, January 13 to pre-register. You will be notified if there is a cancellation because of weather.

Hope you will be able to attend this program. If you have questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Robinson

Walter J. Robinson
Extension Agent

moh

Enclosure

Land-Grant Universities—The Commonwealth Is Our Campus
Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Smoking is not allowed

Jan 18

Principal plans to use law to curb problem

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

Smoking in the boys' room. Whether it's a form of teen-age rebellion or the topic of a popular song, it's now illegal in the state of Virginia. Smoking on school property is also the number-one discipline problem at Marion Senior High School, according to principal Mike Rolen.

Rolen appeared before the Smyth County School Board Jan. 9 to introduce a plan to deal with the problem.

"In the past, we have always used reactive solutions to this problem," Rolen told the board. "A series of in-school suspensions never seemed to solve anything. The pattern just kept repeating itself."

Rolen proposed a new way of dealing with student smoking—one that, in its final stages, invokes the full power of the law.

In the first incidence of smoking, a student would receive in-school suspension and parents would be informed of the situation. The second incidence would double the in-school suspension and the parents would again be informed.

But the most innovative part of the proposal occurs when the student is caught smoking for the third time. Parents would be called in for a conference. At that time, the student would be given the choice of a three-day suspension from school or entering a smoking cessation program administered by the Smyth County Health Department.

Rolen said this part of the proposal does not have guaranteed results, but does attempt to provide a solution in the student's best interest by nipping the habit in the bud. According to information Rolen received from the health department, the smoking cessation program might have only limited success since the student is being forced to take it.

If the problem isn't solved and a student gets caught smoking again, Rolen would bring state law into play.

"On the fourth time, the student would be charged with a violation of the Virginia code," he told school board members. "I have spoken with Commonwealth Attorney Roy Evans Jr. and he has expressed a willingness to become involved."

If convicted, the student would be fined $50 to $100. Rolen says there are also federal codes that could place a $1,000 fine on the student.

Rolen says these measures are necessary because in many instances the students say their parents know they smoke, and some parents even acquire cigarettes for their children.

Board member Phil Hopkins asked if that was the case, why wait? Why not bring the law into the problem from the beginning?

"I think we can have a better case if we wait for more offenses to build up, especially with the smoking cessation offer," Rolen answered. "Then we can say we've tried suspension, we've tried education, and the student still refuses to comply with the law."

Several board members asked how other high school principals felt about Rolen's proposal. Rolen said they wanted to see the plan piloted at MSHS before using it in their own schools.

"I'm anxious to see how it works out," says Craig Barbrow, principal of Northwood High School. "I'm not knocking the proposal at all, but because of our location, it's harder for us to provide a smoking cessation program."

■ See **SMOKING**, Page A10

Smoking in school

■ **SMOKING**, from Page A1

Barbrow says although smoking is not Northwood's number-one discipline problem, it is still a very common cause for students to be sent to the office. "Right now, we call the parents in on the first incident, and send the student home on suspension the second time," he said.

"It sounds like a strong, tough policy," commented board member L.T. Olinger. "I'd like to see you bring the parents in at the beginning and explain to them what steps will eventually be taken."

Rolen agreed that the program would mean educating both students and parents and that it was strong policy. But, he noted that it was one he felt was necessary. In his first year as principal, there had been 135 incidents of student smoking. That number had dropped to 80 incidents by last year. He added that most of those incidents involved 25 to 30 repeat offenders.

The proposal was left in the school board's hands to be discussed at next month's meeting. Rolen said any suggestions would be appreciated. ❑

* * * * * * * *

A MOMENT WITH A CHICKADEE

I touched God's world
When you hopped upon my finger,
And I felt your heartbeat in
my hand
For just a moment.

Then our eyes met, in common
trust,
Uniting our two worlds
For just a moment.

And when you flew away, I
called,
"Come back again, someday,"
For just a moment.

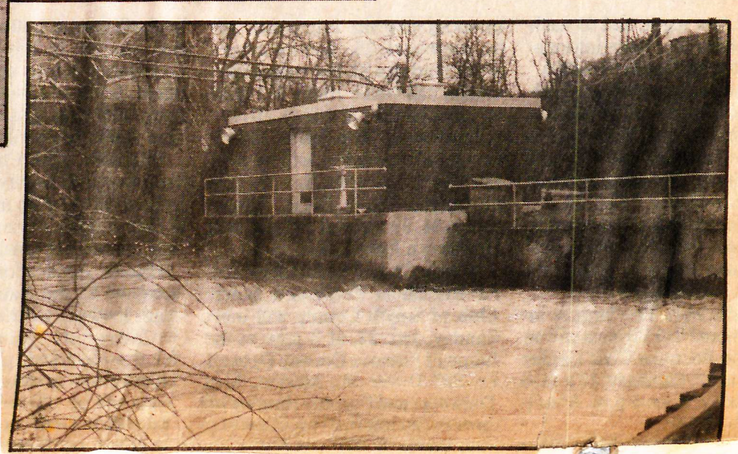
-- Author Unknown

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

And the rains came...



The low-water bridge in Teas (at left) still could not be crossed Sunday afternoon. Teas, Sugar Grove and Thomas Bridge areas were hardest hit by the weekend rains. Marion officials were concerned that the rising water would damage the water plant's pump station (pictured below). Photos by B.C. Shuler and Brian Seals.



Smyth escaped worst of weekend's storms

Smyth escaped worst of storms

■ STORMS, from Page A1

enough," says Schoener. "The Red Cross, fire department and the people at the Outpost were so great and helpful."

Wolfe says approximately 25 people were evacuated in the Thomas Bridge vicinity. The Outpost and Busy Junction (businesses in Thomas Bridge) acted as way stations, offering blankets and towels to those waiting on relatives or other forms of transportation.

Hazel Harper, former director of Smyth County's Red Cross, says preparations were in place to open a shelter in Marion's United Methodist Church, but fortunately, the need did not arise. Last year, eight people were sheltered in the church following the February ice storm.

Smyth County averaged 2.5 inches of rain Saturday and Sunday, with the heaviest amounts falling in Mount Rogers (2.9 inches), Seven Mile Ford (2.6 inches), Groseclose (2.3 inches), and Camp (2.7 inches) at the Wythe County line.

"It was worse than last year's floods because the water rose much quicker with even more rain," said Bill Parks of Sugar Grove. Parks' water line was washed out by the rising waters, but neighbors were able to provide him with drinking water.

Peggy Sexton, who owns the Sugar Grove Diner, woke up Sunday morning to find her road cut off on both ends.

"We weren't able to open up the diner until 11 a.m. Sunday," she said. "There just wasn't any way to get to Route 601."

Sexton says the water was rising extremely fast Saturday evening. "My husband and I went out to eat dinner, but you could see it rising everywhere. We just got our food and went home."

In Washington County, schools were closed Monday and Tuesday due to boiled-water alerts, according to the school board office. Sections of 10 Washington County roads were closed Saturday night during the heaviest flooding.

By Monday morning, most of the waters had subsided, leaving a wake of debris and river rock strewn across yards.

Roger and Lois Moore of Sugar Grove, along with their daughter and her two friends from Louisiana, had spent Saturday night in Shirley's Market after being evacuated. Monday they faced the grim task of cleaning up, gratefully accepting help from relatives in Glade Spring.

"This is the fourth flood we've had to deal with in two years," says Moore. "It devastated our yard and fish ponds and washed out an access road to a house behind us."

Moore says she thinks rocks carried in last year's flooding helped to make this one worse. "You can look and see where the rocks have washed downstream and raised the level of the riverbed."

Chuck Scott of Sugar Grove had similar problems.

"There was at least a foot and a half of water running down my driveway," he said, pointing to the rocks now covering his creek-front property. "All those rocks weren't there Friday afternoon." ❑

The situation was much worse in nearby Grayson County. A total of 27 roads were closed Sunday night. Approximately 4.5 inches of rain fell in the highlands. Some of that runoff may have contributed to flooding in the Sugar Grove and Teas areas of Smyth County.

Schools in Grayson were closed Monday.

"It's pretty hard to have school when you can't get all of your students there," said Charles Dickson, director of transportation for Grayson County Schools. "We may have to re-route some of our buses due to the road closings and mud slides."

In Smyth County, schools opened one hour late Monday. Superintendent Marvin Winters said school personnel were checking county roads between 6 and 7 a.m. Monday to assess the road conditions for buses. Meanwhile, cafeteria workers and other personnel at several county schools were preparing boiled water because of drinking-water alerts issued around the county. Winters said soft-drink rules were relaxed at high schools since water fountains could not be used.

At Atkins Elementary School, Bobby Hanshew, a custodian for 12 years, spent Sunday afternoon checking the school's furnace and boiling about 15 gallons of water for the school's 222 students.

"Bobby put the water in the refrigerator and we iced it down Monday morning," said Alvin Crowder, principal.

January 18, 1995

BIRTHDAYS

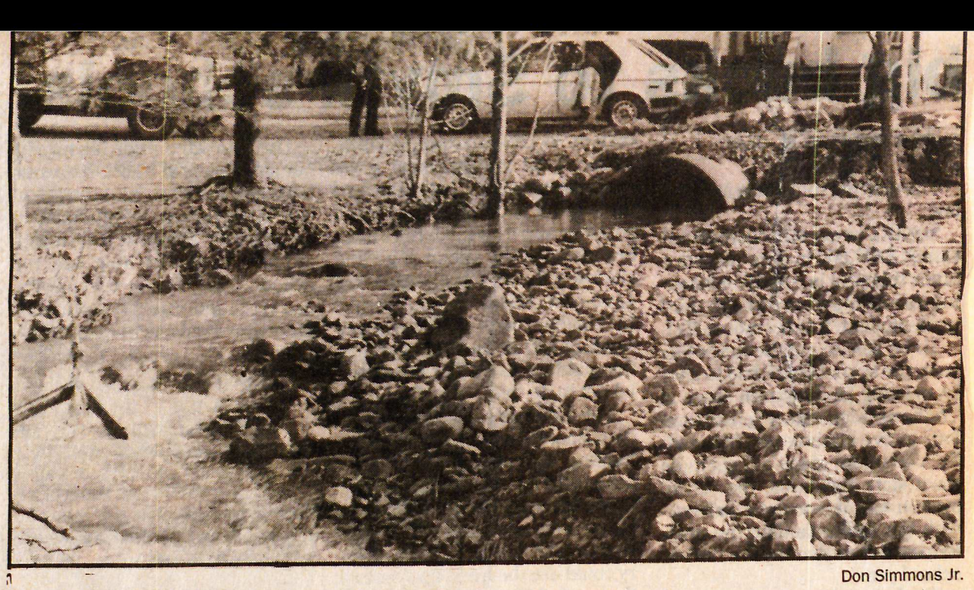


Jeanette Stone

Jeanette Stone will celebrate her third birthday Jan. 20. She is the daughter of Cindy Stone of Sugar Grove.

Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Stone of Marion. Great-grandparents are Katherine Stone of Marion, and Dorothy Hardy of West Virginia. ❑





Don Simmons Jr.

Cobblestone islands like this one dot Cressy's Creek throughout the Sugar Grove area. A natural occurrence, the cobblestone washes downstream during heavy rains. Once deposited, the rocks raise the level of the creek bed, leaving less and less space in which the water can flow.

Don Simmons Jr.

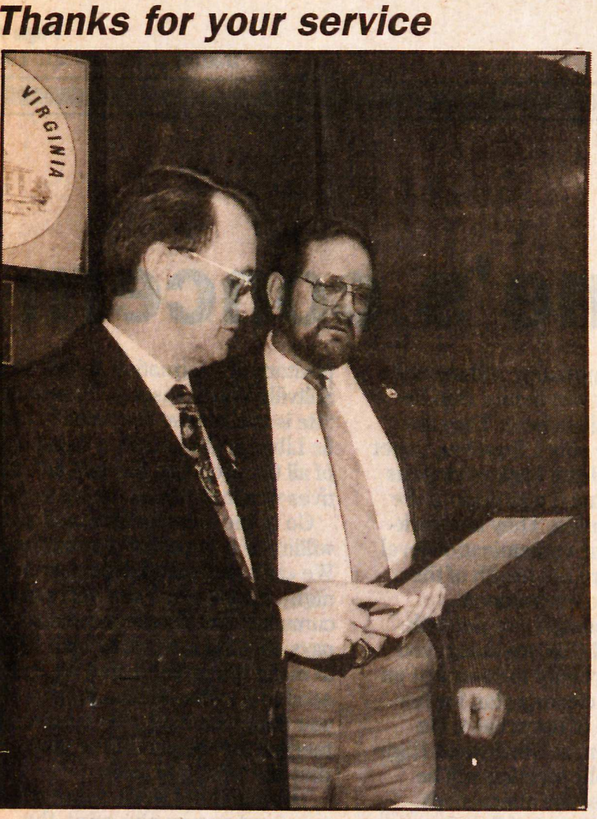
Bill Woods of Glade Spring helps his aunt Lois Moore clear debris in front of her Sugar Grove home Monday. County officials say the Sugar Grove, Teas and Thomas Bridge areas were hardest hit by the weekend's heavy rains.

FDR 'gave us hope'

Today, without FDR's New Deal and its benefits, particularly those monthly Social Security checks, many of us would lose our homes, have less to eat and nothing to save for emergencies. With his indomitable spirit he lifted the entire country out of despair and gave us hope.

Grace E. Behrens
Lancaster, Pa.

Thanks for your service



Jerry Orr

APPRECIATED: North Fork District Supervisor Ralph Hayton presents Rye Valley District Supervisor Jay Hubble with a certificate of appreciation at the Jan. 10 meeting of the county's governing body. The certificate, signed by all the supervisors, thanks Hubble for his work as the board's chairman during 1994. Hayton is serving as chairman for 1995.

Transformation



Don S

DOUBLE TAKE: From left, Sugar Grove Combined School Principal Sam Hambrick discusses the features of the school's new $80,000 library with school board members John Styron, Blaine Dancy and Superintendent Marvin Winters. Marion architect Cameron Wolfe designed the library, using natural light shafts and glass brick to create a gem out of an unused gymnasium/auditorium (at right). The library houses more than 4,000 books and features computer check-in.



Don Sim

Earnest recognized as outstanding member

At its December meeting the Ryel alley FCE Club awarded Polly Earest the outstanding club member ward.

The club met at the Sugar Grove aptist Shelter for the December eeting. President Eva Jarvis called e meeting to order.

Earnest was in charge of devoons. She read a poem, "Twas the ght before Jesus came." Roll call as answered to "Have you finhed decorating your home for hristmas?"

A report was given on Forest Fantasy. Mary Jane Blankenbeckler gave a report on Community Council and the fruit baskets for Christmas. Eva Jarvis gave a report on achievement day at the Adwolfe Fire Department held on Dec. 10.

The club gave a donation of $5 each to Santa's Elves instead of having a gift exchange. Three new members were welcomed into the club. The winner of the drawing for the quilt was Linda Currin of Sugar Grove. Following the drawing the club enjoyed the annual Christmas lunch. ❑

CLARIFICATION

In the Saturday, Dec. 14, edition of the *Smyth County News* on page B2, olly Earnest was recognized for receiving the outstanding club mem- er award from the Rye Valley FCE Club. The award was not for the one ub, but rather for Smyth County. ❑







Jones is honored twice

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Tammy Nicole Jones has been named an All-American Scholar and a United States National Award winner in honor roll.

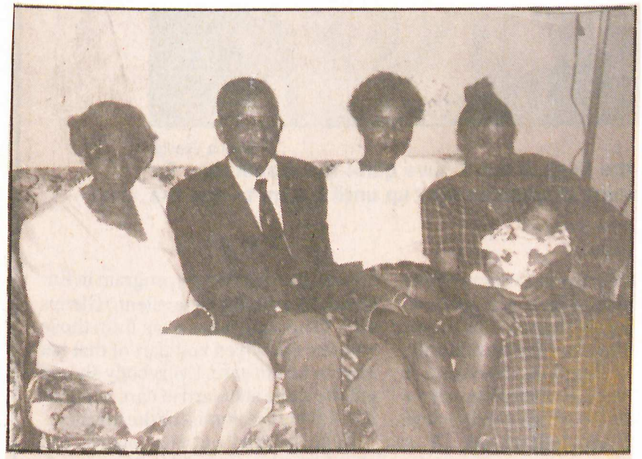
The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn 3.3 or higher grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsor are accepted. Jones will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The United States Achievement Academy award is a prestigious honor very few students every hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Jones was nominated for these two awards by Ms. Gross, a counselor at Marion Senior High School where she is a student. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Jones of Marion, and is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Horne of Sugar Grove. ❑



Tammy Nicole Jones



Five generations of the Lee family recently got together. They are from left Cleo Lee, her son Carl Joseph Lee, both of Sugar Grove, his daughter Debra McClanahan of Dublin, her daughter Anica Gambill and her son Joseph Keith Gambill, both of Sugar Grove.

Rocking The

Wayne Henderson and Friends will perform at The School House in Abingdon on Friday, May 12, and X-over will perform Saturday



Wayne Henderson

for country-and-western line dancing.

The Henderson performance will begin at 7 p.m. and include audience participation with clogging and square dancing. Tickets will be $5 for teens and adults and $3 for pre-teens.

Henderson has traveled throughout the United States and Canada three times as part of National Council for Traditional Arts tours. He also has performed in various Asian countries.

School House

Saturday's performance will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $5. Reservations are not required, but tables may be reserved by calling 628-8577.

The School House is at 19407 Bethel Rd. For more information, call 628-8577. ❑

A church in the wildwood

Community seeks to preserve piece of history

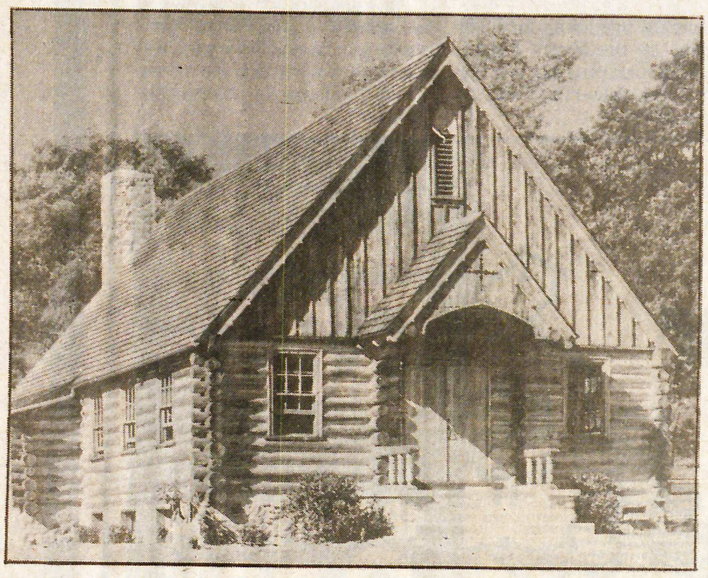
By GLENNA ELLEDGE/Staff

Much the same as a beacon shining far into the night from the tower of an old lighthouse, a rustic church in the Laurel Valley Community near Konnarock captures the mind and fuels the imagination.

Visitors passing through are fascinated by the hand-hewn log church located in the valley along a level and unwinding stretch of highway. A sense of peacefulness settles over those who behold it for the first time. This church in this place is so right that the occasional visitor has the sense that all the crazy, jigsaw pieces of life have suddenly fallen into place and all is right with the world. Simply because it exists, the unique church is a sermon and a testimony. No longer a church, the structure has become a burden to those entrusted with its care.

To better understand, perhaps it would be best to start with the beginning.

Under the sponsorship of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA), the Rev. H. E. Poff started construction of the church in 1943. With the aid of two elderly men, a team of horses and a drag pan, Poff began excavating the basement and hauling in the native stone that is the foundation of the church building. Young boys, family men on vacation and service men in on furlough, volunteered to help lay in the foundation and to cut and haul in the spruce logs contributed by the United States Forestry Service. The women and children of Laurel Community volunteered to cut and saw the logs into blocks and shingles.



Laurel Valley Lutheran Church during the building's sturdier days.

Once the foundation, the outside frame and the roof of the church were complete, work on the inside began. When completed, the crucifix-shaped building had a seating capacity of 200. The vestibule leading to the center aisle of the narthex is located between two classrooms designed in such a way that they can be used for overflow crowds. The chancel, to the front of the church, is shaped by an altar built of eight-inch, hand-hewn logs. A cross carved from silver birch is suspended overhead in the chancel area.

With the help of two boys, Poff built a stone chimney four feet square and 30 feet tall to the rear of the church. Residents of Laurel Valley and Konnarock volunteered to assist in erecting the 40-foot spire pole, carved with religious symbols in a totem pole effect, that is topped by a wooden cross. Ten feet above the ground and anchored horizontally to the cross is a hand-hewn, log beam. Suspended from this beam is the church bell.

The labor of love continued as volunteers searched out native flagstone and used it to construct the walkway that leads from the road to the front porch of the church. Community volunteers dug the post holes and installed the fence and gate that other volunteers had carved from spruce and balsam.

The next steps included the furnishings for the inside of the church. Volunteers carved the pulpit and lectern from pine logs that were 16-inches in diameter, and from the heart they carved in this wood the religious symbols that had significant meaning for the way of life that had been handed down from their ancestors. For the pews, the volunteers carved supports by cutting

■ See CHURCH, Page B12

Everyon

Religion and its role in public schools

By DALE HANSON BOURKE/RNS

As students across the country return this year to the nation's public schools, some will carry a new item along with their fresh notebooks and sharpened pencils: a Bible.

Before lunch, some will bow their heads in prayer or, if seated with like-minded friends, they may even pray aloud.

During discussions about literature, art or biology, they may express their religious beliefs.

And after school, as the ski or business club meets, they may conduct a Bible study or prayer meeting on school property. They may even advertise the meeting and invite their friends to participate.

Such activities have always been protected, but now public school teachers and administrators have been educated about the facts.

When the Department of Education issued a memo July 12 on "Religious Expression in Public Schools" and in early August distributed a simplified version to public schools, it took a common-sense approach to what has become an emotional issue. It stated the facts, simply and without complex interpretation.

"The First Amendment does not convert our schools into religion-free zones," President Clinton stated in a speech that coincided with the release of the guidelines.

"If a student is told he can't wear a yarmulke, for example, we have an obligation to tell the school the law says the student can. If a student is told she cannot bring a Bible to school, we have to tell the school, 'No, the law guarantees her the right to bring the Bible to school.'"

A teacher who reads the document can clearly understand which activities are protected and which are out of bounds. The only gray area seems to occur around proselytizing. While students may freely express their beliefs and even try to win over other students through the distribution of literature, they may not "harass" their classmates.

A parent who reads the guidelines may be surprised by just how much freedom is guaranteed for religious expression in public schools.

And a student — whatever his or her faith — will have a hard time thinking of some activity or expression not protected, as long as it does not interfere with the freedoms of others.

Whether it is the right to wear religious symbols or clothing or the freedom to be excused from activities that violate one's beliefs, the guidelines offer far-reaching

■ See SCHOOLS, Page B5



WORSHIP SERVICES–As the sign out front reads, the Matson Presbyterian Chapel holds worship services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday school at 10:20 a.m.

Religion and the schools

■ SCHOOLS, from Page B4

protection of student religious rights.

Now the issue is, how much will these freedoms be exercised? While some groups continue to seek an amendment guaranteeing the right to school prayer, how many students will actually pray in public schools?

Parents and students who have voiced concerns over these freedoms have won a victory. Now it is up to them to put these opportunities into practice.

All families — whether religious or not — should discuss the implications of protecting religious freedoms and emphasize the value of respecting one another's expressions of faith. For peer-conscious children, the existence of freedoms means little if they fear taunting or exclusion by classmates.

Parents of various faiths might also want to form a committee to help educate the school community about religious holidays, practices and beliefs. Special presentations may be brought into the classroom as part of the curriculum as long as no religion is specifically excluded.

As parents and students work with teachers and administrators regarding appropriate expressions of religion, the public schools will take on a new richness and diversity. Bringing religion back into the classroom will add to the education and understanding of all children.

Dale Hanson Bourke is the author of "Everyday Miracles" and publisher of Religion News Service. ❑







Auxiliary: The newly formed Sugar Grove Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary invites any women in the Sugar Grove area to join. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Sugar Grove Fire Hall. (3-22) ❑

FEBRUARY 1995

Feb. 1995

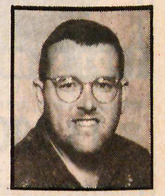
Hostess - Polly Earnest
Leader - Pres. Eva Jarvis
Business - NO meeting - Hi Water





Name Lusida T. Currin
Address Rt 1 Box 241A
Sugar Grove, VA
Phone 677-3759
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Local composer featured



Larry Hutton

The Annabel Morris Buchanan Federated Music Club will present Larry Hutton, local composer, performing a number of his own original compositions. The program will be in the chapel of the Royal Oak Presbyterian Church (Sheffey Street entrance) on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 3 p.m.

Hutton is a native of Sugar Grove and has lived there all his life. He began studying piano at age seven with Janet King of Rural Retreat. When he was 10 years old, he composed his first piece of music, an instrumental number, for his Boy Scout Troop.

While a student at Marion Senior High School, he played in the school band. After graduating from in 1975, he attended Wytheville Community College where he was a member of the chorus. He graduated from there in 1977.

Hutton received further musical training when he attended summer songwriting workshops at Estes Park, Colo., in 1981 and 1988. He is organist and pianist at Sugar Grove Baptist Church and has been teaching private piano lessons since 1977. He sings in the Smyth County Community Chorus.

On his program Sunday, Hutton will perform six or seven of his vocal compositions which are written in more or less ballad style. Four of his compositions have been recorded in Nashville including "There is a Season" by Lulu Roman of the TV show, Hee-Haw.

The program is open to the public and in case of snow, the program will be held Sunday, Feb. 26,



...ises concerns ...ng grandchildren raise

...years can be the ...years of raising ...5 years, the num... ...ng in households ...randparents has ...rcent. Although ...e of 1970 to 1980, ...ldren living with ...t actually de... ...te numbers, be... ...93, the number ...rcent — from ...00.

An AARP study, entitled "The Real Golden Girls," described who these grandparents are.

About 60 percent are women whose average age is 59 years. A number of them, 76 percent, are married, 68 percent are white, and 58 percent have less than a high school education.

Said one grandparent who is now taking care of a young granddchild, "I don't think I can do Scouts again."

—Virginia Tech Extension Service

Anyone who thinks that only teenagers suffer the problems of unplanned parenthood is leaving out a large group of people. It is often grandparents who are coping with the problems of unplanned parenthood.

And, the task by the grandparents can be more difficult than when the young person is coping, said Charlene Freeman-Coker, Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist in aging at Virginia Tech.

"The different life stages make a great deal of difference in economic outlook," she said. The young people often can assume that their circumstances can improve. They will get more education and training, get work or higher paying work, or if they are single parents, they may marry and with two partners, have two incomes to raise the children.

The grandparents who take the responsibility of raising their grandchildren will probably continue in economic circumstances that not only will not improve, but will get worse.

"A 55-year old grandparent who takes on the responsibility of raising a 5-year-old grandchild, will be 65 years old perhaps with the reduced income of retirement, when that child is 15 years old. And the child's teenage years c... most expensive years ... them," she said.

Over the past 25 years, ...ber of children living in ho... headed by their grandpa... increased by 50 percent. ... through the decade of 197... the number of children li... their grandparent actu... creased in absolute numb... tween 1992 and 1993, the ... jumped by 17 percent — ... 867,000 to 1,017,000.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION HOME FAMILY COMMUNITY

Things I Cannot Answer

Often the preacher is called on to give a Bible answer for what we believe and practice. I believe I can reasonably defend our position, but, I must confess that there are some things I would not attempt to defend that are often apparent. **I cannot explain:**

Why some people can find time to attend any or all of the social affairs as well as business meetings of different organizations, and yet cannot find time to attend the worship of the Lord.

Why we can spend ten dollars for an evening of fun yet place only a dollar bill in the collection plate on Sunday.

Why most of us know the names of our favorite television stars and programs, yet it is difficult to even locate what we are looking for in the Bible.

Why we can talk about every other subject to our friends, yet we can never mention the Bible or the church.

Why we feel that mid-week service is such a burden and the children cannot be out late, when we do not hesitate to keep them up past bedtime for a party or company.

Why every adult member of the church is not attending a Bible class regularly on Sunday morning. Is it not important to study the Bible?

Why people want to sit on the 50 yard line at the football game, the best seat in the theater, and the back row in the worship service.

Why people are habitually tardy to the most important and significant event in their lives — the worship services.

Why Christians with the greatest story in the world to tell, the greatest challenges, the greatest opportunities, have such a depleted supply of vision and a barn full of pessimism.

—Selected

Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Smyth County Extension Office
P. O. Box 510
Marion, VA 24354

February 8, 1995

TO: Smyth County FCE Council Members and Club Leaders

Dear Ladies:

There will be a **called meeting** of the Smyth County FCE Council on Thursday, February 16 at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Extension Office. Betty Munsey, Extension Agent in Bland County, will be presenting a leader training on Low-Calorie, Low-Fat Foods.

Mrs. Munsey will also be discussing some very important business of which will be of interest to all members. Please try to have someone represent your club at this meeting.

If there is no school because of inclement weather, the meeting will be on Thursday, February 23.

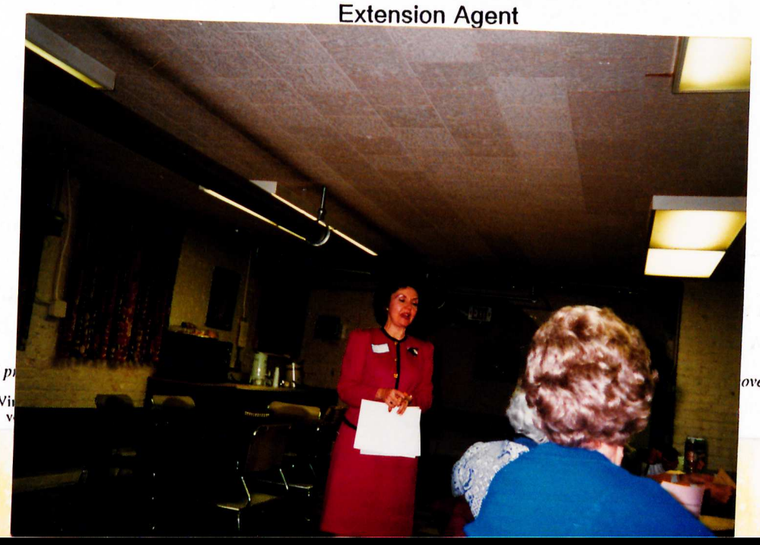
Hope to see you at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Robinson

Walter J. Robinson
Extension Agent

moh



Extension is a joint pr... ...overnments.

Vi...
v...

Southwest Virginia is part of the great melting pot

FACE TO FACE

GLENNA ELLEDGE/Columnist

A commentator recently announced on prime-time television news that based on the 1990 Census, 1 out of every 11 persons living in America today were born in another country.

The figure is staggering, and the spin-off of other related and interesting facts is almost limitless. In this area, the most obvious is that who ever worked up this statistic was definitely not from around these parts.

Try going to White Top, Konnarock, or Sugar Grove, for instance. A surveyor today would be hard pressed to find 1 person out of a 100 people who was not born in this country. In fact, finding even one such individual may be difficult.

Travel down the mountain to the Marion and Chilhowie areas and there are a few, but the numbers will still remain something like 1 out of every 75.

In some sections of Southern California, however, the population is heavily Mexican and the majority of them were not born in the United States. In some counties in Southern Florida, Cuban born citizens and those from Puerto Rico vastly outnumber those who hold a claim on being American-born.

A large number of recent immigrants from the Old Country still live in New York, New Jersey, and their neighboring states. San Francisco and Los Angles have a large population of people who were born in the asiatic countries.

By contrast, the vast majority of Afro-Americans living in America today were American-born.

There are reasons America is referred to as a melting pot. In wake of the Revolution, people from all cultures came to America and they helped found a great nation. Modern transportation and the advent of a mobile society is resulting in another revolution. It has already begun and fifty years from now Southwest Virginia will have undergone a major population shift.

From all of these facts, two major ideas evolve. Secured in these mountains, hills, and valleys the culture and ethics of the original pioneers have continued to exist with very little change. The outside world, however, has discovered the beauty of the region, and the advantages of living, working, and investing in the area. With modern highways and airports capable of handling small jets, the mountain chains of Southwest Virginia no longer form a natural barrier. We are the melting pot of the 1990s.

Before those who remember the way that things were, before those who have inherited the talents, abilities, and beliefs of the early settlers in this area move on to a different world, it is important that the stories they have to tell are preserved in the printed word. ❑

There are reasons America is referred to as a melting pot. In wake of the Revolution, people from all cultures came to America and they helped found a great nation. Modern transportation and the advent of a mobile society is resulting in another revolution.

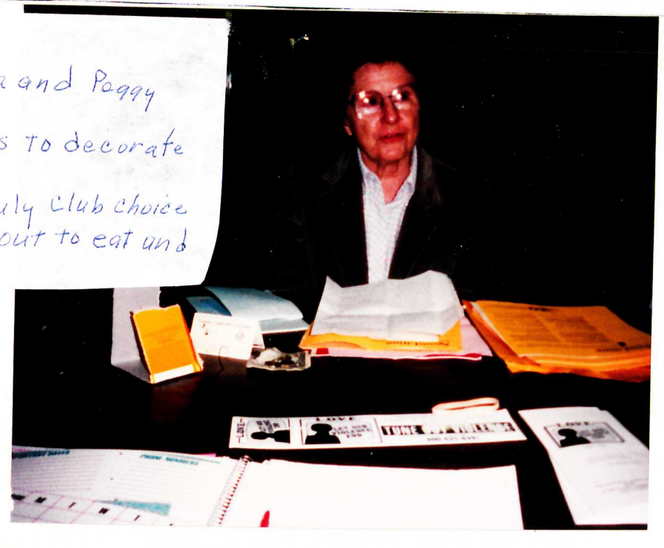
MARCH 1995

Leader - Treva and Peggy

Program - Ways to decorate with flowers

Plan for July Club choice

Go out to eat and shop.





I asked for strength that I might achieve;
He made me weak that I might obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given grace that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for,
My prayer was answered.

Fight is on to save Extension moneys

y **BRIAN SEALS**/Staff

Gov. George Allen wants to slash millions of dollars from the state's Cooperative Extension Service budget.

Following the first week of this year's General Assembly session, it appears the Governor may have a fight on his hands.

Measures have been proposed in both chambers of the General Assembly to restore $14.6 million in funding to the Extension offices.

Allen is seeking to cut $7.9 million from the Extension Service and $4.9 million in related research funds under his 1995-96 budget proposal. When his proposal was announced, legislators from rural areas voiced concern. According to two local legislators, the final budget may include funding for the services.

State Sen. Madison Marye, D-Shawsville, has introduced legislation in the Senate to restore the funding to the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension Service. In the House of Delegates, a bill to restore the service's funding, introduced by Delegate Earl Dickenson, D-Mineral, is meeting with widespread support, according to Delegate Barnes Kidd, R-Tazewell. Kidd and Marye represent Smyth County in the House and Senate, respectively.

"It's getting 100 percent support on the House side," Kidd said Thursday. "That's something I said all along that Southwest Virginia can't do without."

Kidd signed on as a co-patron to the House version of the bill. In visits around the district before the session started, Kidd spoke of the importance of the Extension Service to rural areas such as Southwest Virginia. Marye, a farmer, voiced similar concerns.

"The Extension Service is critical to Virginia's $34 billion agriculture, livestock, seafood and forestry industry," Marye said this week.

Allen's proposal would have cut nearly 84 agents from the Extension program and would force closing of as many as half of the state's Extension offices, according to Marye.

"It's ridiculous to destroy 4-H programs that teach children responsibility, respect for others and the value of hard work and provide a healthy alternative to drugs, crime and all the other terrible problems our young people face today."

–State Sen. Madison Marye

"There's a possibility we wouldn't have an office in Smyth County," said Extension Service Agent Walter Robinson, who added he supports the move to restore funding.

He noted the offices provide assistance to farmers in every aspect of agriculture from crop selection to livestock maintenance to computer workshops.

Farmers also benefit from one-on-one contact with agents, Robinson said. If a farmer is having problems with crops, he can get assistance and testing from Virginia Tech laboratories through the Extension office.

Assistance received by farmers is often the result of research and experimental farms operated under the Extension Service budget. For example, an experiment station in nearby Glade Spring has done research on burley tobacco, beef cattle and alternative crops. Robinson has aided in exploring alternative crops by applying for grant money for an endeavor to grow tomatoes in a greenhouse at a nearby farm. As Greg Hicks, communications director for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, said, the service takes research from the university and applies it

■ See **FIGHT**, Page A9



Mary Jane wins
March door prize

NoonLiting
weight control that works

Lesson

Let Food Preparation Techniques Trim the Fat

The Switch to Polyunsaturates to Help Control Blood Cholesterol Level

Substitute vegetable fats for animal fats. Animal fats contain more saturated fatty acids than vegetable fats.

Read margarine labels. Select margarines that have oils listed as the first ingredient. When vegetable oils are hydrogenated the fatty acids become more saturated, so the words *partially hydrogenated* means some of the fatty acids have been changed from polyunsaturated to saturated.

The Switch to Lower Fat to Control Calories

Choose lower fat milks for drinking and cooking. (1 cup)
Whole milk — 160 calories, 8 gm fat
2% milk — 120 calories, 4.7 gm fat
1% milk — 100 calories, 2.6 gm fat
Skim milk — 90 calories, .4 gm fat

Substitute plain yogurt for sour cream in dips, salad dressings, sauces and baking. For a thicker substitute blend 1 cup low fat cottage cheese with 2 tablespoons skim milk. One tablespoon lemon juice can be added for tartness.
One cup of sour cream — 412 calories, 40 gm fat
One cup of yogurt — 140 calories, 3.5 gm fat

Make yogurt cheese to use as a subs for cream cheese. Place 1 cup of pla fat yogurt on a double layer of clear cheesecloth. Place cloth in a strainer bowl. Cover bowl. Let yogurt drain night in refrigerator. Discard the liq use yogurt cheese as a base for vege dip and sandwich spreads.
1 tablespoon = 10 calories.

Use low fat cottage cheese instead o regular creamed cottage cheese in s and baking. (1 cup)
Cottage cheese — 217 calories, 9.5
Low-fat cottage cheese — 164 calo gm fat

Substitute evaporated milk for crea recipes. (1/2 cup)
Evaporated skim milk — 110 calori fat
Evaporated whole milk — 170 calo gm fat
Heavy whipping cream — 410 calo gm fat

Remove skin from chicken before y it. Most of the fat is in and just und skin. (3 1/2 ounces)
Chicken breast with skin — 222 ca 11 gm fat
Chicken breast without skin — 173 ries, 4 gm fat

North Carolina
Cooperative Extension S
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Merit Pins with Outstanding Members' Certificates are still available for $3.00. New materials are continuing to become available - I will keep you posted.

The Chickahominy Shores Club has a new member at each meeting. I firmly believe there are prospects just waiting to be invited.

The picture at the side was taken at the Christmas parade in beautiful downtown Providence Forge, New Kent County. Take note of our new banner and logo. Our town is small but the interest is great! -- Brucie East, Membership Chair
840 Riverside Drive
Lanexa, VA 23089



Keep up the good work, New Kent

♡ ♡

L. O. V. E.

"Let Our Violence End"

♡ ♡

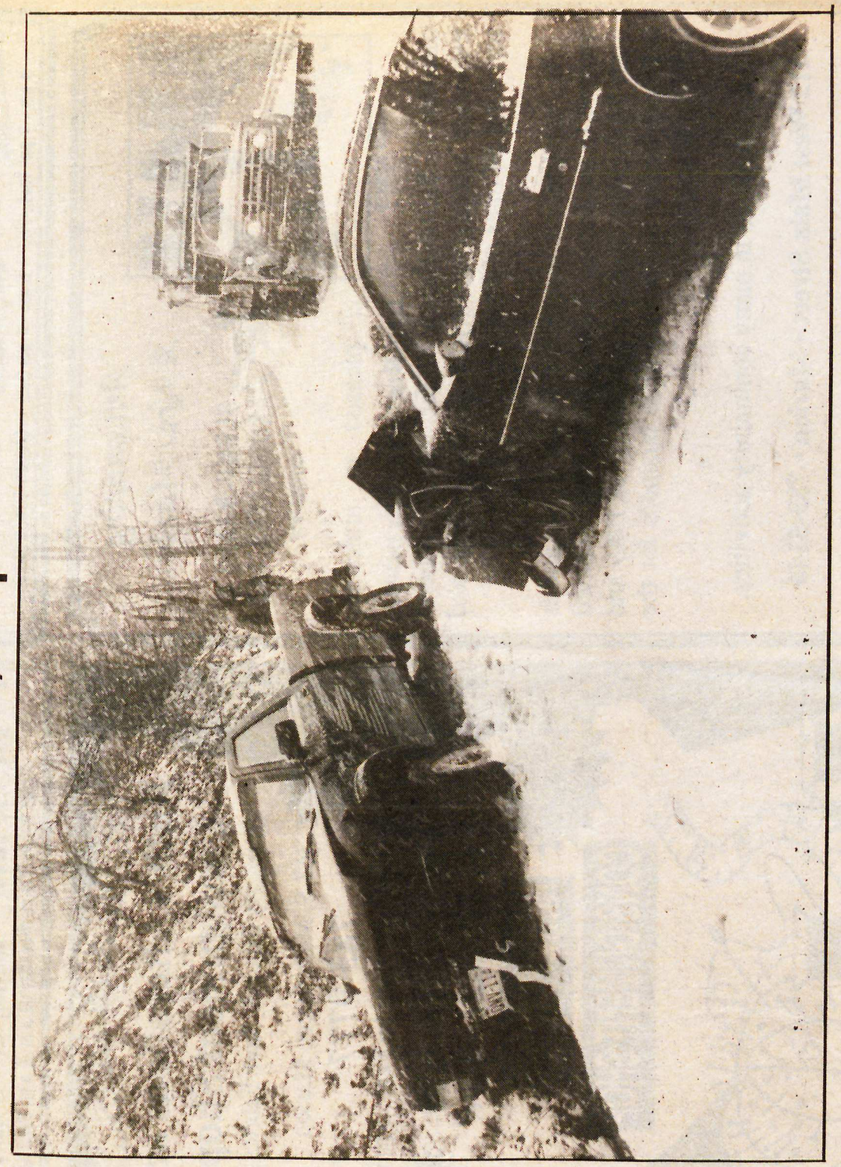
Virginia for Family and Community Education Association
109 S. Pope Street
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812-1038

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8/2
96

Surprise! Thrills, chills, spills and snow



Jerry Orr

Police investigated approximately 20 accidents in Smyth County during Wednesday's snowstorm.

By JERRY ORR/Staff

A snowstorm, sometimes accompanied by thunder, surprised Smyth County Wednesday, sending kids home from school and cars into the ditch.

Roads were especially treacherous early in the afternoon. The State Police and the Sheriff's Department gave 20 as a ballpark figure for the number of accidents they worked. Town police departments reported working three accidents in Chilhowie, two in Marion, and one in Saltville. They reported no serious injuries.

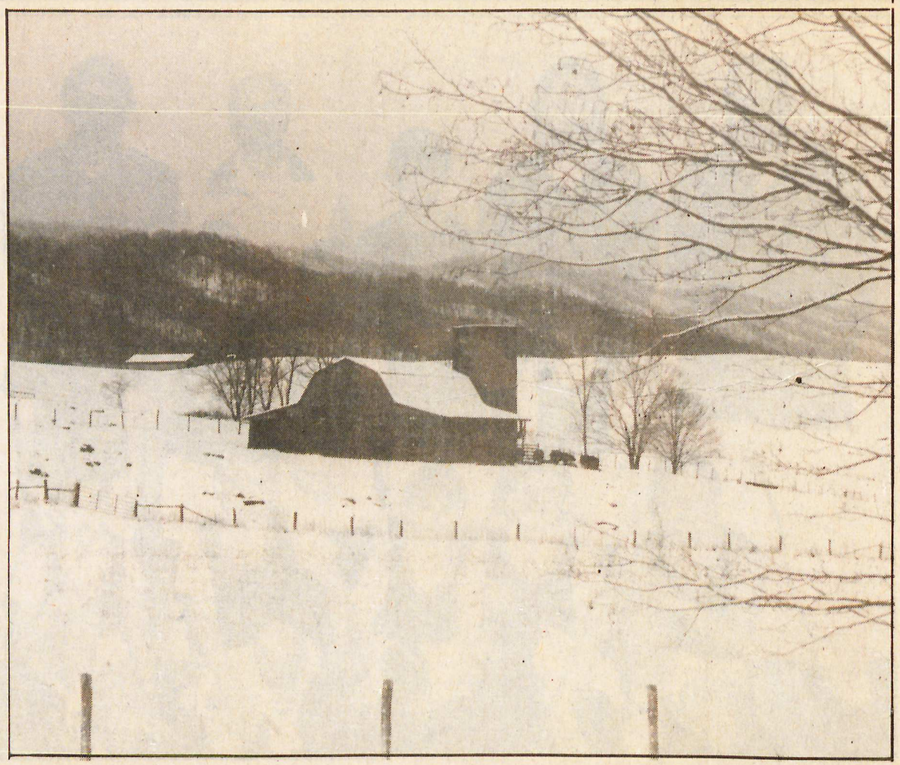
"We had an abnormal number of accidents all the way from the [Tennessee] state line through Wythe County," reported Lt. J.B. Willis of the Virginia State Police. Troopers have three days to file accident reports so a specific number was not available. "I know there were a lot of them," Willis said.

Willis said the most unusual report he heard was that around nightfall the wind blew over four tractor-trailers traveling on Interstate 77 near Fancy Gap in Carroll County. The 34-year veteran of the State Police said that is the first time he has heard of the wind knocking tractor-trailers to their side.

As for local traffic problems caused by the storm, "it was basically the typical snow wreck–drivers would lose control," said Sgt. Mike Musser of the Virginia State Police Area 26 Office.

■ See **SNOW**, Page A9

Farm blanket



Jerry Orr

COUNTRY SNOW SCENE: Wednesday's surprise snowstorm blanketed Smyth County with several inches of snow in a few hours. Walker Mountain provides the backdrop for this barn on the Robert Louis Stephenson farm in Rich Valley.



Don Simmons Jr.

As you can tell, lunch is one of the favorite times of the day at Sugar Grove Combined School

Surprise!

■ **SNOW,** from Page A1

Troopers "would just go from one wreck to another continuously from 12 to around 6 o'clock," Musser said.

"It seemed like every available person I had was working wrecks," Smyth County Sheriff John Grubb said.

With traffic bottled up on the slick roads, the problem was getting to accident scenes, according to Investigator Chip Shuler of the Sheriff's Department. Calls closely following each other made for "just a bad day," he said.

School dismissing early "created a different rush hour," pointed out Chilhowie Police Chief Scott Sexton.

Estimates of snow depth ranged from three or four inches in Saltville to a foot south of Chilhowie toward Iron Mountain. Around six inches was the consensus for the typical amount of snow on the ground throughout the county.

Town crews received credit for keeping the streets passable. "Traffic seemed to move real good under the circumstances," Saltville Assistant Police Chief Steve Surber said. By scraping and applying chemicals and gravels, the town crew had "streets in real good shape" by around 5:30 p.m. in Marion, Police Chief Charlie Overbay said.

Getting salt on the roads when the snow first begins to lay is essential, according to Mike Halim, assistant resident engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation. "It was a surprise snow," he said, but the highway department was able to keep all the roads in Smyth County open.

Halim said VDOT was and still is well-stocked with salt locally and he was beginning to wonder if there would be another need for it this winter. "We'll be prepared for the next snowstorm," he assured. ❑

Cleaning up



Don Simmons Jr.

BEAUTIFICATION–Mountain View Food Mart owners Inis and David Ashlin of Sugar Grove receive the Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Award of the Month from Gary Peacock, beautification committee chairman, and Tom Burkett, executive director. The award is given once per month from April to October to the church or business whose property has improved the most over the past year. The Ashlin's won the award for the Rye Valley District.

Three generations of farming and another one coming along

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

Preston "Pete" Richardson has seen a lot of changes since he began working on his father's dairy farm in 1951. Some of the changes have been for the good, others he's not so sure about. But Richardson believes if anything will save the modern dairy farm, it's the family farming culture that has existed since before the states were united.

Pageton Farms in Cedar Springs was started by Richardson's father, Hershel in the 1940s. At that time Hershel, who was an assistant county extension agent, bought up 80 acres and went to work. The farm was named after his daughter, Page, and his son, Preston.

Fifty years later Hershel, 81, still spends time in the farm's business office, but it's Pete (Preston) who supervises most of the farm activities.

"He doing pretty good for a boy," Hershel said of his son.

At the age of 59 and after an injury during a car crash, Pete says it's his son, Jay, who does the heavy work nowadays.

Pete and Jay run the farm, which has grown to 1,500 acres, with the help of a few good workers. Ralph Bonham has worked on the farm for approximately 25 years. Pete's brother-in-law Robert Coulthard also keeps things moving. Pete says his other farmhand, Tony Mattingley, moved here from Washington, D.C., and is doing a great job for a city boy.

"The best advances over the years were probably purification and automated milking,' said Pete. "We used to filter the milk through cheesecloth."

It's some of the recent changes in the dairy industry that worry him most. Many large companies have merged and merged again, cutting down on competition. In 1979, Pageton Farms got $15 to $16 per 100 pounds of milk. Today it's $13 per 100 pounds. "The price we get out of it has dropped, but it's gone up in the stores. We probably get 70 cents per gallon. And I guarantee you the price in the stores isn't going to go down."

But those changes are recent history. Pageton Farms has been making news for a long time.

In an article from a 1968 Cooperative Farmer magazine, the Southern States publication focused on a no-till technique used by Pageton Farms that produced 35 tons of corn per acre. The article stated the farm grossed $52,000 from milk in 1967. The operation has definitely grown. Last year, the farm grossed approximately $300,000 from its milk production.

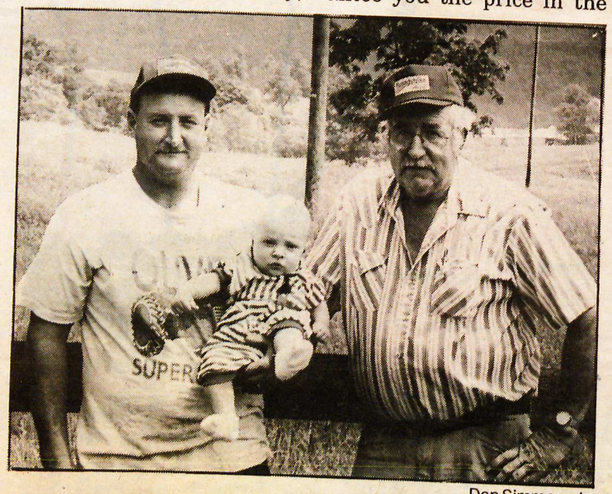
Pete adds that the figure is not net by any means. Running a dairy farm has its share of overhead. Labor, fertilizer, fencing, insurance and compensation insurance, hauling bills and equipment maintenance must all be paid for. Capital investments on new equipment also drive the net earnings down, but Pete says it's still worth it. He also says he owes part of his success to his Future Farmers of America teacher, E.R. Thompson.

"Forty years ago, he told us, 'Boys, you always need more than one enterprise to farm. Something to help balance the books,'" Pete recalled. "He was exactly right. That's why we raise beef cattle, too. I don't know how people who do just one thing survive. If the prices drop, what else have they got to fall back on?"

To complement its herd of 125 Holstein dairy cows, Pageton Farms also raises 200 Charolis beef cattle. Pete took it one step further last year when he cross-bred some of his Charolis with Texas Longhorns.

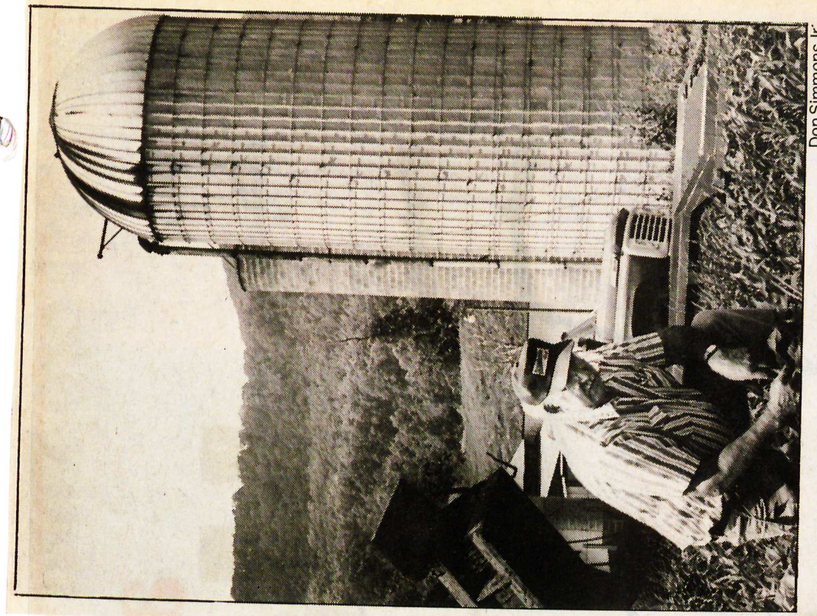
Pageton Farms still uses the no-till technique, but now the method produces 40 tons of silage per acre. They sow rye in the fall and kill it in the spring, then plant the corn in the rye stalks.

Pete says he's happy that his son is showing a lot of interest in the family farm. And that's not all. Pete's now a grandfather. Jay's seven-month-old son Eathan is well on his way to following the family tradition. ❑



Don Simmons Jr.

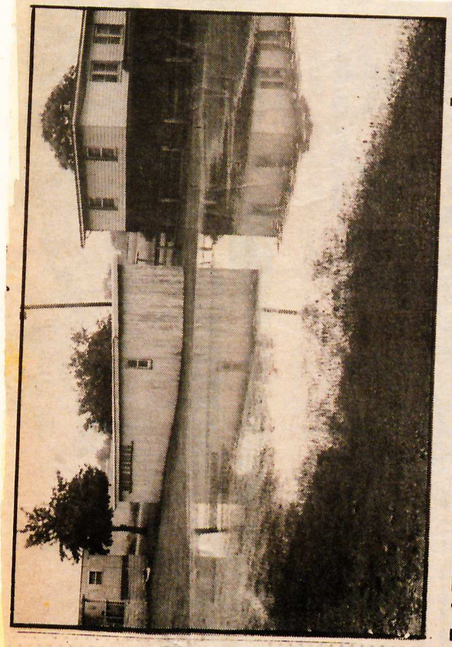
THREE GENERATIONS OF FARMING: Jay, Eathan and Pete Richardson take a break on a hot June day. Pageton Farms in Cedar Springs was begun by Pete's father, Hershel, in the 1940s.



Don Simmons Jr.

CHECKING THE CROP: Preston "Pete" Richardson checks the Pageton Farm corn crop.

1995



Teresa Mize

Earl Eller's front yard shows some of the effects the past week's rain had on Rye Valley.

Smyth avoids major flooding

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

Despite some water-laden yards and crop damage, Smyth County has emerged relatively unscarred from the week and a half barrage of thunderstorms that have caused major flooding in Central Virginia and Bluefield, W.Va., according to county emergency services coordinator Charlie Harrington.

"We've had the usual high water at the Chilhowie railroad and in parts of Sugar Grove and Teas, but nothing out of the ordinary," said Harrington. "These are normal

Harrington did say that water levels remain high throughout the county and could be pushed higher if the heavy rains continue.

However, most area weathermen are forecasting a break in the thunderstorm activity by early next week.

Heavy rains forced a number of families to be evacuated by emergency services personnel in January. That incident struck hardest in the Thomas Bridge, Sugar Grove and Teas areas of the county. Harrington said no formal evacuations

problems for periods of heavy rain

No matter how bad it gets,

GOSPEL

BY SHELDON W. SORGE

The various seasons of the year elicit very different kinds of behavior among us humans. We tend to burrow into snug hibernation in winter (we call it being "couch potatoes"), and we defer to summer's wilting heat by slowing down as much as we can possibly justify. Spring and fall, in contrast, are seasons of activity, of sowing and reaping.

Spring is the season of hope, of sowing seed with dreams of a bountiful harvest. No one who sows does so with the expectation that the crop will wither from drought, or be beaten down by hail, or scavenged by wildlife. Each seed sown, each garden hoed, each field tilled carries hopes of a 100 percent yield.

Yet any gardener will attest that a 100 percent yield never happens. There is always some glitch. This year our late summer drought caused the harvest to suffer. I didn't get as many tomatoes as usual, although I still received an abundance for a few weeks. It wasn't a perfect harvest, but it was still a blessing.

Fall is the season of realism, where the ideals sown in springtime have turned into the reality of what has survived the afflictions of summer. It is not yet winter, not yet time to shut down the machinery. There still is work to be done. Even though the ground has not yielded all we had hoped, it still has yielded something, and we must make the best of what there is.

It is said that the "mid-life crisis" is precipitated by the realization that hits all of us, at one point or another, that we will not be able to do everything we had hoped when we were younger. What do we do when our dreams fail to materialize? That's a fall question, a question that arises when the harvest doesn't look altogether like the ideal that was in our mind when we sowed our crops in the spring.

The harvester does not lie down and give up when the crop looks less than ideal, but works with the realities of the yield, whether great or small. That is our challenge with life as well, when things don't go as we had hoped — to make the best of what is, rather than to give up because the crop doesn't look like we had dreamed it would.

In my work as a pastor I often encounter people who are disillusioned with the Church. It doesn't look much like the great company of saints that it ought to be. Lofty biblical ideals have succumbed to the grim realities of human shortcomings. To be sure, the Church is still God's holy people, the community founded by none other than Jesus Christ. But it is plainly a very human community also. Much of the dissatisfaction I encounter is focused upon denominational bureaucracies that seem to be out of touch with people's hopes and dreams for the Church. Indeed, who can blame people for being disillusioned with the Church?

If anyone saw the shortcomings in his faith community, it was Jesus. But — and this is the part that I want to underscore — he never pulled out of it, he never gave up on it. Polluted and blighted as it was, he remained a faithful, contributing, active member.

When I contemplate my personal disappointments with life in general, and with the Church in particular, I am reminded of the example set forth by our Lord Jesus Christ. No one saw more clearly through the facades and hypocrisy in the Church than he did (his "church" was, of course, the Jewish faith community). He spared nothing in serving up his indictments of corruption amongst religious leaders, to the point of literally overturning their tables of privilege. If anyone saw the shortcomings in his faith community, it was Jesus. But — and this is the part that I want to underscore — he never pulled out of it, he never gave up on it. Polluted and blighted as it was, he remained a faithful, contributing, active member. Each Sabbath you could be sure he was in the Synagogue. Whenever possible, he went to the Temple. He didn't withdraw in disgust, or form a new religion. He hung in there to the end, leaving us an awesome example of determined persistence with less-than-ideal religious communities.

And let's face it, none of our churches can honestly claim to be much better than Jesus' religious community. Each and every church has its shortcomings and flaws. None of them much resembles the ideal Christian community set forth in the Bible. The search for a perfect church or denomination is sure to end up in failure.

So what would Jesus do with a church so painfully deficient as those around us today? Would he give up on it? Not on your life! To be sure, he would clean house, he would expose any insincerity and hypocrisy in its leadership. But he would never give up, never set aside his responsibilities to it, or his love for it. No matter how ugly it may be, he would still own it and defend it as his family.

When our lives don't pan out exactly according to the dreams of our youth, we still carry on. We don't just give up and drop out, but we do the best we can with what we still have. Fall's harvest may not look like much compared with the ideals of spring, but it's all we have, and it would be suicidal to walk away from it all just because the harvest doesn't look as good as we had hoped. By the same token, when we walk away from a church that is less than perfect, the main hurt we inflict is upon ourselves.

I come from Canada, where we celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. It is a harvest festival, a time to thank God that even though the crops may not be ideal, they are still good, a gift of God. That's just how it is with the Church — it may not be perfect, it may have many shortcomings, yet it is good. Thank God for it, and support it wholeheartedly — you'll be the one to benefit! ❑

APRIL 1995

APRIL, 1995

Hostess Peggy and Treva Jarvis

Devotional _____

Leader Peggy

Business
1. Roll Call
2. Treasurer's Report: _____

Program - **TABLE DECORATIONS**

Reminders: 1. County Council Meeting, May 9

HINT: Wipe mini-blinds with dramp fabric softener sheet to eliminate static that collects dust. The same trick works for TV and computer screens.

THOUGHT: If you only look at what is, you might never attain what could be.

RECIPE: **PORCUPINES**

3 teapsoons oil
3/4 cup minute rice
1 pound ground beef
2 cans tomato sauce
Salt and pepper

Mix beef, minute rice and other ingredients. Roll in small balls. Brown in oil. Drain fat and pour in tomato sauce. Simmer 20 minutes.



APRIL 5th 1995





National Association
Family & Community Ed
APRIL 5, 1995

TUNE OUT VIOLI

TO PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT PLEASE

800-625-6391

Our morals are at stake

RIGHT & WRONG

BY CHARLES COLSON

Anyone needing yet another example of our nation's sacrificing of moral principles to the demands of powerful pressure groups and the lure of profits need look no further than our China policy, an example as massive as the Great Wall.

An extreme position? How else to characterize our nation's craven attitude toward the upcoming U.N. Conference on Women, a multi-faceted farce that has taken on a diabolical nature since the jailing of Harry Wu, a naturalized American citizen and China's premier human rights advocate.

In and of itself, the women's conference is merely another ideological tent show where a group of diplomats, bureaucrats and activists will draw up the latest blueprint for steering the masses toward their proper fate. The fully politicized nature of the event was quickly sniffed out by Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, who notes that the conference's 120-page draft document contains the word "gender" 300 times ("gender" being the politicized word for sex, as "gay" is the ideological construct for homosexuality), while "sex," "sexual" and "sexuality" show up around 100 times.

Meanwhile, "motherhood" is mentioned fewer than 10 times, while "family" occurs even less, usually in a negative connotation. The clear message: The family is repressive and best put out of its misery, an interesting notion in light of the woeful problems our own country faces as a direct result of family disintegration. A great leap forward does not seem to await us.

And let no one overlook the ironies at work here. Consider the location of the conference: Beijing, that citadel of personal liberty where such highly coveted creeds such as "freedom of choice" are expressed in the "one-family, one-child" policy, which is enforced by mandatory abortion. One wonders where the United Nations might hold a conference on home breweries — in downtown Teheran, perhaps?

Indeed, nearly every declaration of support for "empowerment," "human security" and "universal rights" will take on the nature of farce, at least for those aware that these concepts are anathema to China's current government. No one has made this point clearer than Harry Wu, who exposed the existence of slave labor in contemporary China, as well as other barbarities, including executing prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs.

Harry Wu is the ghost that haunts the U.N. conference. Arrested last month in China on a charge of espionage, this U.S. citizen could face death for what used to be considered the Lord's work — bearing witness to unmitigated evil.

Yet Harry Wu has been all but abandoned by his country. When Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole recently proposed an amendment that would withdraw funding from the conference unless Wu is freed, it was blocked by Senate Democrats. Clearly, in the new public morality, funding this conference — and thus pleasing a highly politicized group of activists — is a higher priority than protecting the well-being of a U.S. citizen.

Astonishingly, Americans seem to agree, for there have been no protests over this outrage, at least that I have heard of. For Harry, it's the big ho-hum.

Abandoning this brave and principled man reflects the precipitous decline in our public principles in only two decades. Back in 1973, President Richard Nixon dispatched me to Moscow to demand the release of Russian Jews wanting to leave the country who were being denied emigration visas. Our bargaining position was simple: The American people believe that human dignity and freedom are inalienable rights, granted by God not conferred by the state. This was, I argued, non-negotiable. Five long and hard days of diplomatic hardball followed, but in the end the Soviet negotiator, Vasily Kuznetsov, caved and 35,000 Jews were allowed to leave the country that year.

Our China policy is totally devoid of such moral concerns, even when a U.S. citizen's fate is directly at stake. Why is this so?

One reason, it seems to me, is that our moral sensibility is under deep sedation, so that we not only tolerate this sort of outrage, but expect it.

Then there is the jangle of money. China, with 1 billion potential consumers, is truly a marketing Nirvana. Add to that the desire to please radical feminists, and our virtual silence is not hard to understand, though it is hard to accept.

When Richard Nixon went to China, he performed a brilliant service to freedom: dividing the communist world. When our national representatives to the women's conference travel to Beijing, they will carry the message that America's top priorities have shifted to appeasing pressure groups and making money, and that selfless patriots like Harry Wu can be hanged.

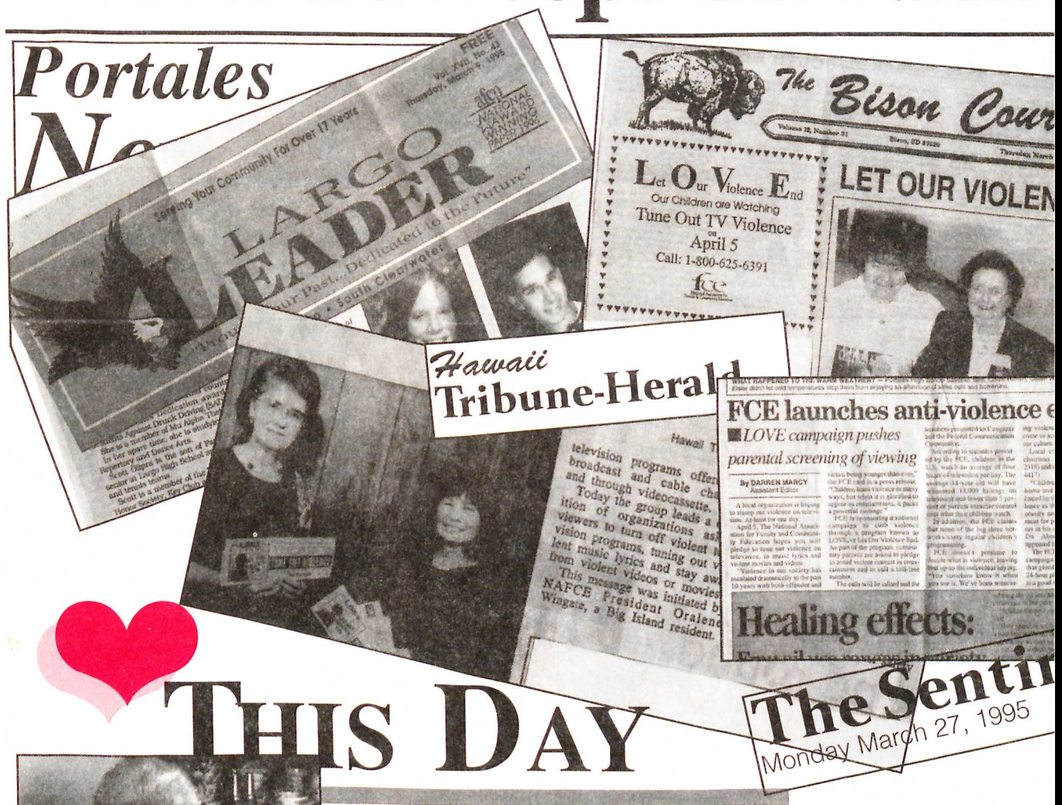
Charles Colson served a prison term for his role in the Watergate conspiracy. He now heads Prison Fellowship International, an evangelical Christian ministry serving the incarcerated and their families. In 1993 he received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

FCE Press

Wednesday April 5, 19

National Association for Fam and Community Education

L.O.V.E. Sweeps the Natio



THIS DAY



Charline Warren, Marketing Committee Chair; "prime mover" of the L.O.V.E. campaign.

Photo: Roger Werth
The Daily News,
(Longview, Wa)

Just a sampling of th coast-to-coast media age members captur the April 5, 1995 "Le Violence End" camp

"...This Should be an annual ca

"L.O.V.E." Turns Extension Agent into Poet!

Let Our Violence End

The campaign inspired Vermilion parish (LA) Cooperative Extension Service Agent Howard J. Cormier to create this lovely poem ("V.A.F.C.E." stands for "Vermilion Association for Family and Community Education").

The children of today need help,
To understand their world.
The problems and the pain is great,
Whether you're boy or girl.

The V.A.F.C.E.,
Is giving us a gentle shove,
They're doing it by reaching out,
They're doing it with L.O.V.E.

L.O.V.E. is a word that stands for,
Let Our Violence End.
It is a way we let folks know,
We all must join in.

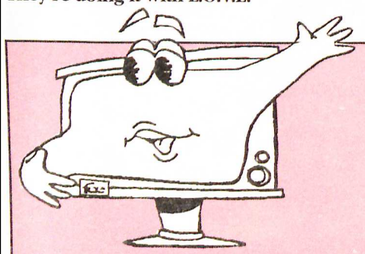
Violence is an ugly thing,
Some T.V. shows promote.
There's also songs and videos,
And movies that rock kids' boat.

We've got to find a better way,
To entertain and teach.
We've got to save our children,
Before they're out of reach.

They've been misled, by glitz and jive,
Their backs are against the rope.
It's time we take our youngsters back.
It's time to give them hope.

There can be joy and peace and calm,
And learning that is fun.
There can be family programming,
It's high time it's begun.

The beauty and the joy of life,
Can help young hearts to mend.
It's time to give our full support,
To Let Our Violence End!



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The name will change... the meaning's the same!

Family ChoicE TV™/Tune out violence on April 5, 1996

As many members pointed out, tuning out TV violence should be *at least* an annual event! Therefore, plans are underway for the 1996 event, to again be held on April 5th. Next year's campaign will be named: "Family ChoicE TV™ Day." Details will soon be available through your state FCE organization and *FCE Today*.

"All TV is educational...It's just a matter of what you are learning."

To explain how two people, continents apart, could come up with the same invention at nearly the same time, Thomas Edison theorized that good ideas "float through the air," and could therefore land in many human brains. Such an event happened in our case; after choosing the "L.O.V.E." theme developed by Hawaii's Otome Myers, we discovered that Arkansas entrepreneur Robert Holt had not only also developed the phrase, but also that he had placed it under trademark in January, 1995. We again thank Mr. Holt for graciously allowing FCE the release to use the slogan for our 1995 campaign.

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Members of the Marion Baptist Church weekday religous education program (above) and members of the Sugar Grove Head Start program (below) planted trees in remembrance of the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. (Photos by Brian Seals)

Little Bobby, scolded for being naughty, was asked by his mother, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

He thought for a moment and then replied: "I'll just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'For goodness' sake, come in or stay out.' Then I'll go in."

—C. J. Papara, Racine, Wisconsin, *Guideposts*, May 1958

The product of a U.S. Supreme Co

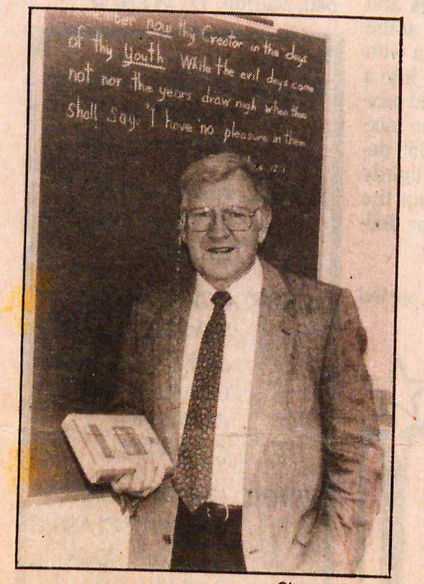
By GLENNA ELLEDGE/Staff

Quartets have the "Church in the Wildwood" and "The Little Brown Church in the Vale." Chilhowie has The Smyth County Bible Chapel for Children, the only church of its kind in Southwest Virginia. The one-room, white frame building on the edge of a cornfield has neither steeple nor bell. But it has more than 700 children enter its doors each month.

The chapel was a direct result of a U.S. Supreme Court case, but its spiritual foundation was laid more than 50 years ago when the late Rev. Roy W. Redding graduated from Eastern University and applied to be a missionary with the American Sunday School Union (now known as the American Missionary Fellowship).

When Redding was assigned to Southwest Virginia, walking was still a popular method of getting from one town to the next, so he walked the more than 15 miles to his assignment in a remote area in the Groseclose section. Along the way, he was cautioned that he was going into bootleg country and that he would more than likely not come out of there alive. Other than to conduct funerals, he was told, no minister had set foot in that area for more than 20 years.

Redding kept on walking. He organized his first Sunday School in the area. During the next 50 years, he logged more than 1 million miles (on foot and by automobile) traveling throughout Southwest Virginia in his missionary work that included the counties of Smyth, Wythe and Bland. He also provided mission services in Grayson, Lee, Tazewell, Wise, Scott, Buchanan, Washington and Russell counties.



Glenna Elledge

Larry Smith volunteered to help out temporarily in 1974. He's been teaching Bible study classes ever since.

Redding organized Bible camps, conducted more than 1,150 Bible schools, more than 1,800 funerals more than 960 weddings. In addition, Redding and his wife, Nell, traveled to one- and two-room school houses all over this area where they taught Bible study classes. During a Bible camp in Unicoi, Tenn., the Reddings touched the life of an 11-year-old by the name of Larry David Smith. Several years later, Smith attended another Redding Bible camp where he dedicated his life to serving a personal savior.

Smith grew up, graduated from college. He was working as an agent for the Smyth County Extension Office and serving as the county's 4-H leader when he decided to go into the mission field full time.

During his 4-H period, Smith worked with a student named Kenneth W. Price. Today, the Rev. Kenneth Price of Sugar Grove recalls that Smith had a great deal of influence on his decision to make the ministry a lifetime vocation. This, however, is getting ahead of the story.

While working with the Smyth County 4-H, Smith continued to maintain a relationship with his mentor, Redding. In December 1973, Smith discussed with Redding his plans to work in the mission field full-time. In February, Smith was offering to help teach the school Bible classes, filling in for Redding's wife, who had been hospitalized. In May, the temporary position became a permanent when Nell Redding died.

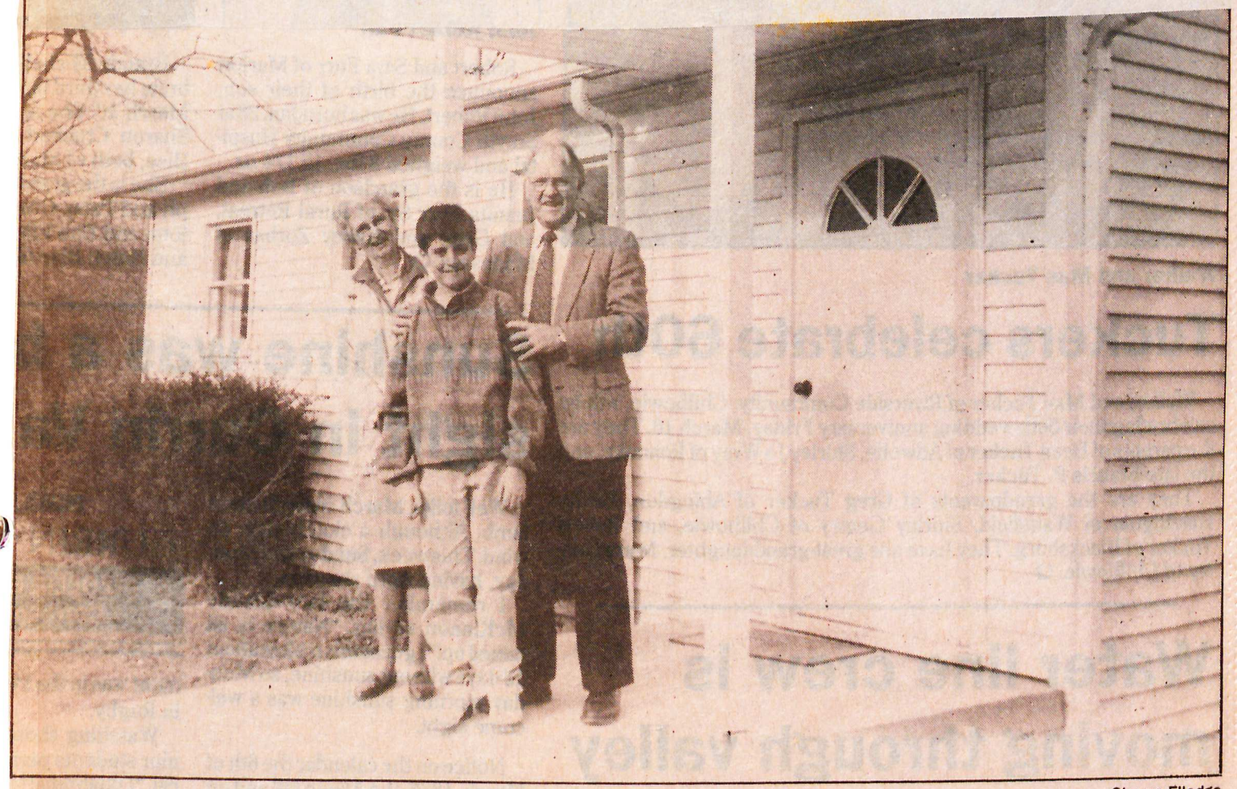
"I had been in the classrooms teaching 4-H when I resigned my job in December to go into the mission field full-time," Smith says. "By March, the Lord had me right back in those same classrooms teaching Bible."

Redding and Smith were still conducting the Bible study classes at Chilhowie and Sugar Grove when a Bristol case was filed charging that such classes violated the United States Constitution, which provides for a separation of church and state.

As the Bristol case advanced to the U.S. Supreme Court, Redding, Smith, and the people of Chilhowie became concerned about the Bible study classes. They took those concerns to other church-

urt decision and the faith and work of 21 churches

The Smyth County Bible Chapel for Children



Glenna Elledge

Kay and Larry Smith with Josh Wyatt, a student who dropped by the Bible Chapel for Children for a little help with a Bible verse.

es and the plan was developed that resulted in the construction of The Bible Chapel for Children.

David Rouse, whose farm borders the Chilhowie Elementary School property, donated the use of his land immediately adjacent to the school. Under direction of the Smyth County Bible Chapel for Children, Inc., the little white chapel was constructed by volunteers from 21 churches of various denominations in the Chilhowie area. These same churches contributed the necessary funds for construction and they continue to provide the necessary funds for the chapel operations.

When the Bible Chapel for Children opened its doors, it was dedicated to Nell and Roy Redding.

Today Smith and his wife, Kay, teach the Bible to students at Chilhowie Elementary and at Sugar Grove as a part of the school system's time release policy.

At the beginning of each school year, the Smiths meet with the teachers to work out a schedule that allows each class to have one hour of Bible study per school month. The Bible study classes are designed in such a way that in the seven years each participating student will have studied significant portions of every book in the Bible.

Marvin Winters, superintendent of Smyth County Schools, explained that the time release program is offered in each elementary school in the county. The program is sponsored by the various church denominations in each community, he said, and whether a child will participate in the program or not is left to the parent.

"Parents met with the attorneys for the school board to work out a way that was legal and that met the guidelines for release time for Bible study," Winters said. "It seems the policy is working and the School Board and I, staff members at each school, and the parents are well satisfied with how the program has been working."

Ed Worley, principal at Chilhowie Elementary School, said, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith are great people. They work with

■ See **CHAPEL**, Page B10

Smyth County Bible Chapel for Children

■ CHAPEL, from Page B1

us and we work with them. They offer an excellent program and one the participating students look forward to each month. I don't think a program could work any better."

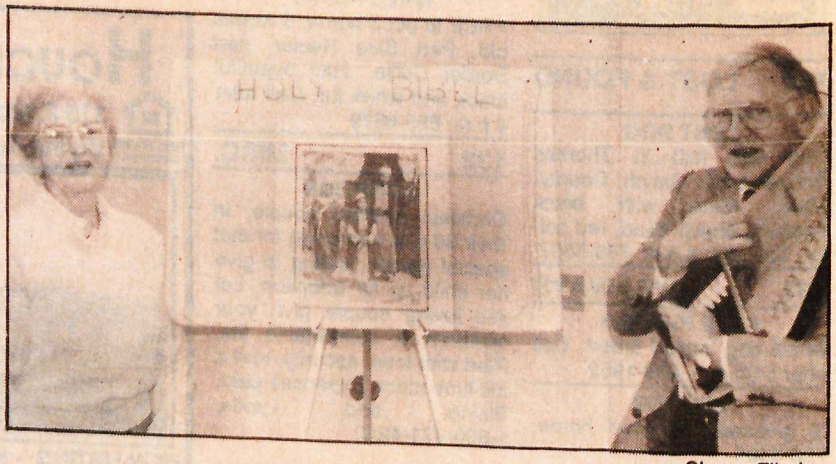
According to Smith, more than 99 percent of the Chilhowie Elementary School students participate in the program. Once each month, more than 700 students walk out the back door of the school, cross the school parking lot and step into the little chapel.

"The emphasis is on Bible memory," Smith explained. "We encourage the kids to memorize specified Bible verses."

During his 21 years with the Bible Study program, Smith has seen a number of his students go on to Bible College. Some are preachers. Quite a number are school teachers.

"Just about all the kids we have now, we had their mamas and daddies," Smith said. "I tell the kids when I start teaching their grandparents that I am going to quit."

To the students, the best part of the Bible study hour is when Larry Smith picks up his autoharp and they all sing songs such as, "I'm So Happy, Jesus Is the Reason Why."



Glenna Elledge

Kay and Larry Smith lead their students in song. "Here on this Earth," Larry says, "it doesn't get any better than this.

As he strums on the autoharp, Smith tells the kids he is practicing for the day when he will get to play a golden harp. "Here on this Earth," Smith said, "it doesn't get any better than this." Larry Smith said.

The children's smiles seem to indicate that they agree. ❑

A day on the farm



Don Simmons Jr

YOU LOOKIN' AT ME?–It's hard to tell who is more curious—Christy Quillen and Josh Schoener or the emu they're staring at. Quillen and Schoener are members of Donna Cullop and Maxine Reedy's first grade classes at Sugar Grove Combined School. The classes recently received a guided tour of the Emu Farm of Sugar Grove.

HELLO
my name is
Barbara Earnest
Rye Valley
Area III 1995

Peggy Jarvis
Rye Valley
Area III 1995



RYE VALLEY
EVA JARVIS
Area III 1998

MAY 1995

Rye Valley Homemakers discuss Forest Fantasy program at May 10 meeting

The Rye Valley Extension Homemakers' Club met at the Sugar Grove Baptist Shelter on May 10 for the monthly meeting. Eva Jarvis, president, called the meeting to order.

Devotions were the Homemakers Creed, and Nell Ross read "No Spare Parts" after which she led the club in prayer.

Thelma Hawthorne called the roll and 12 members answered with "What we are thankful for." Minutes were read and approved.

Mary Jane Blankenbeckler gave the treasurer's report and a report on the Community Council meeting.

There was much discussion on Forest Fantasy. The president gave a report on Area III held May 5 at the Old Courthouse in Independence. Five of the club's members attended.

Ellen Greenwood, guest speaker, gave a very informative program on scams.

The next meeting will be held June 14. Everyone is invited to attend.

Anyone who has old magazines or catalogs to dispose of call 677-3244 or 677-3178 and they will be picked up. They are being collected by the club members for a handicapped person. ❑

HELLO
my name is
Ella Mae Medley
Rye Valley
Area III 1995

HELLO
my name is
Patty Earnest
Rye Valley
Area III 1995

GIVE L.O.V.E. A CHANCE

The National Association for Family and Community Education (NAFCE) is sponsoring LET OUR VIOLENCE END (L.O.V.E.), a national campaign that urges greater advocacy to increase the number of worthwhile children's television programs offered on broadcast and cable channels and through videocassette. By means of this promotion, NAFCE hopes to heighten awareness of the amount of violence and negative values currently found in the media and their effects on society, especially children.

On **Wednesday, April 5, 1995,** NAFCE will lead a coalition of organizations in promoting and encouraging individuals and families to TUNE OUT VIOLENCE by **turning off** violent television programs, **tuning out** violent music lyrics, and **turning away** from violent videos or movies.

WHAT IS VIOLENCE?

Only you can decide. Much like positive things that are hard to define, such as "quality," "faith," or "family values," somehow you know it when you see it. Look closely. We've been witnessing violence for so long we have come to accept it as "just part of our culture."

TELEVISION'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION

Television has the proven capability to augment and enrich children's education in school-related subjects and to inform them on current events. Television will continue to function as a source of lifelong learning. It behooves us to help children take greater advantage of the medium's potential to educate and inform.

Given the chance, television can:

- **Promote** useful activities
- **Instruct** children in skills and ideas
- **Inform** them about everything, from happenings in nature, to scientific discoveries, to life-style trends.

Television's unique contribution resides in:

- its non-threatening, non-punitive quality as a teaching medium.
- its ability to organize and present information in clear and memorable ways through animated graphics.
- its ability to depict live role models.
- its nondependence on reading skill or ability

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

By signing the PLEDGE CARD, mailing it to the NAFCE national office and abiding by your commitment to the pledge, you will be a part of a grass roots movement that is working to end the glorification of violence as entertainment. An even easier way to register your pledge is by calling our Toll Free Number: **1-800-625-6391**

REACH OUT!

We also ask each individual to recruit at least 10 other people to sign a pledge and join us on **Wednesday, April 5, 1995.**

"ALL TV IS EDUCATIONAL -- IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING."

ABOUT NAFCE

NAFCE is a nonprofit organization representing 300,000 volunteers nationwide. Founded in Washington, D.C., in 1936, early efforts focused on support for a national school lunch program, development of local public health services, immunization programs for children, implementation of the first bookmobiles, and national safety programs.

For the past 5 years, NAFCE has worked to improve children's television programming by researching viewing habits, developing workshops and activities for children and families to critically sort through what they see and hear via the media, and joining with other organizations to encourage more educational

Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY MAY 31, 1995



Don Simmons Jr.

The VFW Post 4667 honor guard stands at attention while Ladies Auxiliary members Della Kinser and Reba Matheson place a wreath at the monument to Smyth County's war dead.

Honoring Smyth County's war dead

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

"They died for peace, life and joy, not sorrow. They made the ultimate sacrifice and we should recognize what they have given us."

Perry Bruce,
Commander of VFW Post 4667

Despite forecasts of rain and thunderstorms, bright sunshine fell upon the Smyth County Courthouse lawn Monday afternoon as a crowd of at least 40 people gathered to pay tribute to Americans who gave their lives in service to their country.

The flags of the United States of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4667 flapped in a strong breeze as Perry Bruce, commander of Post 4667, said, "As long as two comrades survive, so long will the veterans of the United States render tribute to the heroic dead. Wherever the body of a comrade lies, there the ground is hallowed. Our presence here is in solemn tribute to their devotion to duty, to their courage and patriotism."

"Many look upon Memorial Day as the beginning of summer — a time for vacations and barbecues. All these are fine activities, but we should all spare just a short moment to remember our losses," said Bruce. "The list is long and it makes us sad. But sadness is not what these comrades died for. They died for peace, life and joy, not sorrow. They made the ultimate sacrifice and we should recognize what they have given us."

The brief ceremony featured a prayer by Haskin Kinser, the VFW chaplain, and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Major Bowen, senior vice-commander of the post. Reba Matheson and Della Kinser of the Ladies Auxiliary placed a wreath at the foot of the monument. After the honor guard fired a salute, Charlynda Kelly, a junior at Marion Senior High School, played "Taps."

One hundred fifty-five names are inscribed on the courthouse lawn monument to Smyth Countians who died in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. ❑

A TREASURY OF CRAFTSMEN EQUALS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

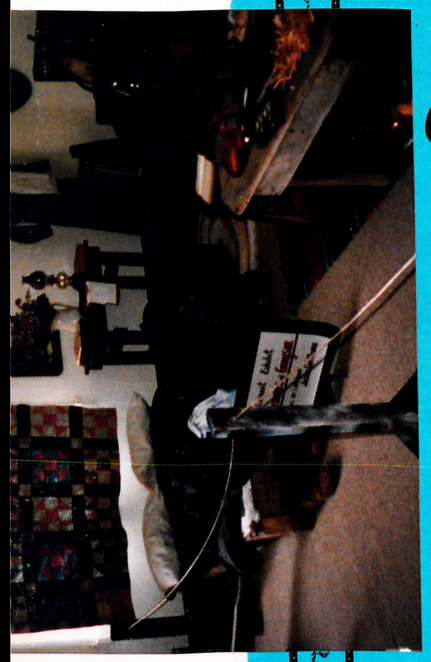
AREA III FCE SPRING MEETING MAY 5, 1995



Peggy ~~at Garland's area~~ 13y
Beside picture of Courthou
made by Grandson.
Her Grand father Mr Robbins
help build Court house
Independence
Courthouse



Tommy Miller, Troop 94, Sugar Grove; Dan Call, Troop 191, Marion; Ronnie Goad, Troop 86, Laurel Fork were honored Saturday, May 13, at the Mountain Empire District Boy Scouts of America annual District Dinner at the Carroll County Recreation Park.



A TREASURY OF CRAFTSMEN EQUALS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

AREA III FCE SPRING MEETING MAY 5, 1995



fce TODAY™

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The Official Publication of the National Association for Family & Community Education

Aloha from your President,



Oarlene Wingate

I left Hilo on February 27th to meet with the 1995 NAFCE Board members. We then hosted the March Mid-Year Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri where a total of 130 participants, including State Presidents, Vice Presidents, Marketing and Public Relations Chairs, Presidents-Elect, Past Presidents and CES agents representing over 40 member associations endured a full weekend of training filled with a variety of information, excellent speakers and answers to long awaited questions! They came to the Kansas City Airport Marriott excited and anxious and most went home satisfied and happy that they came. The response to the tune out violence campaign was overwhelming! I know that all of the extra bumper stickers, brochures and pledge cards were put to good use and I know that club presidents and others who received the packets in the mail utilized the material to the fullest because FCE headlined many a newspaper; FCE was on the radio and television from coast to coast; FCE received close to 50,000 pledges; and a multitude of letters were delivered to FCE from grandmothers, fathers, principals, students and other organizations!! Next stop was Cincinnati, site of the 1996 NAFCE conference where the committee was able to review the Regal Hotel, the Convention Center and consider activities for children and tours for the spouses. A few of us went into Burlington, Kentucky to review the Headquarters situation and meet with staff. Then I attended the Country Women's Council meeting in Austin, Texas where Charlotte Watson has done a great job in preparing for the CWC meeting this fall. I continued on to Washington DC where I met with Mr. Bowdring to discuss and finalize the liability insurance for members. Judy DeWitz and I had an opportunity to visit with Dr. Alma Hobbs, the new Acting Deputy Administrator of CSREES and Jeanne Priester, National Program Leader, USDA. Then we attended the Agricultural Women's Leadership Network (AWLN) meeting, where NAFCE is one of 11 national women's organizations serving on the board. NAFCE was well represented at the Citizen's Task Force on Violence meeting with Janet Reno, Senator Kent Conrad and representatives of at least 25 other national organizations. We met with Mr. Robert Holt, owner of the slogan L.O.V.E. Let Our Violence End who has granted us a release to use it throughout our April 5th campaign. Hotels are okay, but it feels great to be in my own bed and have my own telephone, fax machine, computer and files handy. Timothy was delighted to have me home again! There will be many challenges in 1995 and I do appreciate your patience as we work through each one. Conference will bring to you the fifth component of the Children and Television Project, the new program notebook, the newest curriculum for FCL, and new strategies for marketing membership. A lot has been happening and you will need to turn the page to find out more. You are an important part of all the wonderful plans FCE has for strengthening our families, increasing our organizational worth, and shaping our future for generations to come. Thank you for your efforts and your commitment to FCE, an organization that is truly needed in today's world. I am looking forward to seeing you in Tulsa...

USA Delegation to 1995 ACWW Triennial Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand



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EDITION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1995

The earthquake:

'It was awesome'

By **TIM THORNTON**/Staff

Jean Richardson was in church when she felt the earth move.

"It sort of shook the floor," she said. "Church was dismissed and we was leaving out when it happened."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center, what Richardson and the rest of the congregation felt was "what we call a minor earthquake."

Waverly Person, a geophysicist at the center, said the quake struck at 8:36 p.m. Sunday "about 25 miles southwest of Wytheville." It seems to have been most intense near the Smyth County/Grayson County line, but it was also felt in Carroll and Washington counties in Virginia and Allegheny and Ashe counties in North Carolina.

The tremor apparently did no damage — there were reports of people falling down and some pots falling off a shelf at the Sugar Grove Diner — which is exactly what you would expect with a quake of this size, according to Person. But the experience was enough to generate calls to the Smyth County Sheriff's Office and fuel conversations at crossroads stores and diners all the next day.

"Everybody's just a talking about it," Richardson said from behind the counter at Danny's Country Store in Troutdale. "I think most people thought something had exploded."

"I thought the roof caved in," Terry Ball, of Troutdale, said. "I kind of fell over on the arm of the chair. ... I never experienced nothing like that before."

Ralph Reedy was sitting in his car in Troutdale when the earthquake struck. "I heard the boom," he said. "I thought somebody had a hold of the back bumper, shaking the car."

Peggy Sexton felt the tremor at her house near Teas.

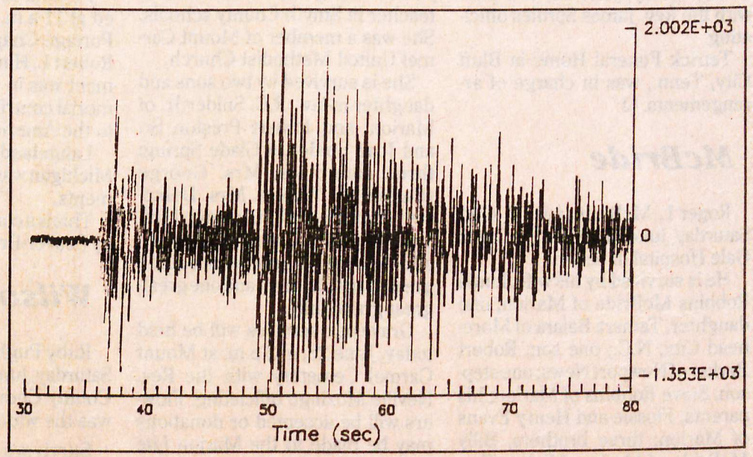
"It was awesome," she said. "It felt like thunder and lightning hit the house at the same time.

"It didn't last but a minute. It took about 15 minutes for me to stop shaking."

Earthquakes certainly aren't unheard of in this area, but they aren't exactly an everyday occurrence, either. "It happens infrequently — about every three or four years," according to Martin Chapman, a research associate with the department of geological studies at Virginia Tech. Giles County had a quake that measured 4.6 on the Richter scale in 1968, according to Chapman. But the last Virginia quake big enough to cause serious damage happened in 1897. It hit near Pearisburg and was probably about a 6 on the

■ See **EARTHQUAKE**, Page A3





This is what the June 25 earthquake looked like to the recording equipment at Virginia Tech.

Earthquake

■ **EARTHQUAKE**, from Page A1

Richter scale — a serious seismic event even by California standards.

Earthquake activity has been so slight in Virginia that science seems to have paid little attention. According to Person, no one has done much earthquake research in this part of the world because this part of the world simply doesn't have a history of big quakes.

"There have been some small earthquakes in that area," Person said. But they have been "more or less isolated incidents."

"We don't expect this to be a foreshock of anything larger," he said.

According to Person, the fault lines in Virginia aren't mapped and named like they are in California, a state much more often associated with earthquakes than the Old Dominion is. In fact, there was a larger earthquake near Los Angeles — an aftershock from a quake that hit last year — the same night as Virginia's most recent tremor. Person said there's no connection between the two.

"It's just a coincidence," he said.

In 1993, there were 21,475 earthquakes throughout the world, Person said. It stands to reason that some of them must have been going on at the same time. ❑

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Lady Bird Johnson makes a rare emergence from the comforts of private life for a photo at the entrance of the National Wildflower Research Center, which opens in its new $9 million home outside Austin next month.

Elder first lady's legacy has left a beauty mark on America

Lady Bird blossoms

By ELISABETH BUMILLER
THE WASHINGTON POST

AUSTIN, Texas — Lady Bird Johnson peers intently at a photograph of a meadow at her National Wildflower Research Center, trying hard to decipher the blur of color before her failing eyes. "About six years ago I bought 37 acres of land, typical Texas hill country, with great big majestic live oaks, and a smattering of wildflowers," she says, searching the picture for old friends like Indian blanket. "And I must tell you, I have something called macular degeneration, which has made this eye legally blind" — she points matter-of-factly to her left — "and this one not far behind. So as far as seeing, my capability is greatly diminished."

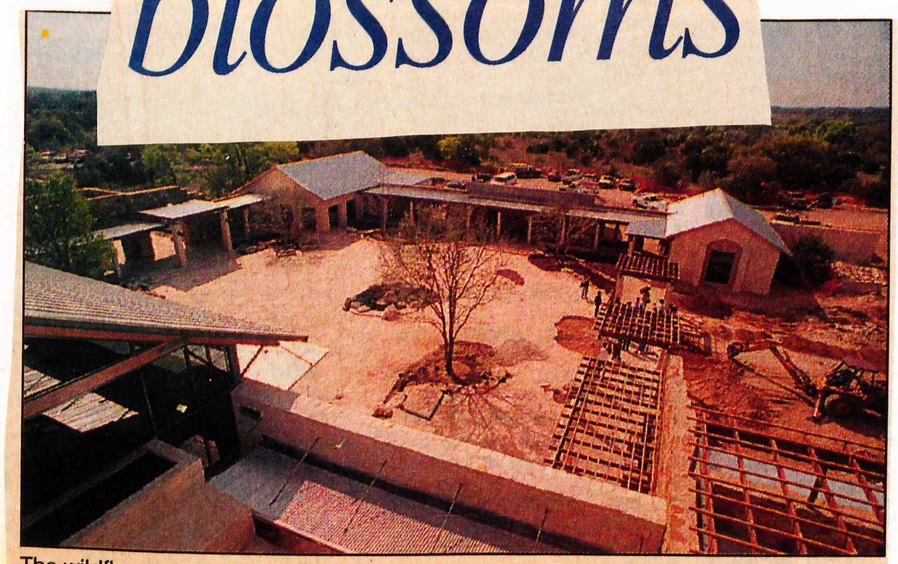
Suddenly she finds something. "Oh, Engelmann's daisies, I can see those," she says, pleased. "And this is obviously coreopsis, gold with a sort of dubonnet center." Yes, she says, of course her lack of sight is frustrating. She laughs. "How not? But it's not something that you can overcome. And they tell me that I probably will never be completely blind."

And yet at 82, three decades after she lived in the White House, Lady Bird Johnson still looks forward. Her wildflower center opens in its new $9 million home outside Austin next month — the reason she has made a rare emergence from the comforts of private life. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library at the University of Texas remains a passion, as do weekends at the LBJ Ranch, winters in Acapulco and summers on Martha's Vineyard with old friends like Walter Cronkite and Beverly Sills. She says the real riches in her life are her seven grandchildren and two daughters — Luci Baines Johnson, who runs what is left of the Johnson family business, and Lynda Bird Robb, the Virginia senator's wife. Age has in its way liberated her. "You give in to not working," she says.

A minor stroke two years ago left Lady Bird with "vastly less energy" and she walks with a cane. "Rather like a ship in a heavy sea," she says. After the deaths in the past two years of Pat Nixon and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, she talks openly of her own funeral. "I want everybody to have a real good time there," she says cheerfully, "because it'll be the last gathering in that house." On her death, the home that served as the Texas White House will be turned over to the National Park Service.

Most of America remembers Lady Bird as the class act of a powerful, difficult marriage. "He may not have been perfect," she once said of her husband, "but at least he was fun."

PLEASE SEE **JOHNSON**/6



The wildflower center is a series of buildings in native Texas sandstone, connected by courtyards and terraces.

Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

People laughed at her beautification program at first — "Beautification was sort of a prissy-sounding name," she admits — but her legacy of 250,000 tulips and 42,000 daffodils transforms the face of Washington again this spring. Historians say she remains the most important first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt.

She was the first national chair of Head Start, the monument of Johnson's War on Poverty that is now a target of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, but the gracious Southerner in her — or, more likely, he savvy pol — resists harsh anguage.

"I am not in politics anymore," he says. "And of course he has a ery important position as speaker of e House, and he has his opinions. ... nd I think though all of the proams he mentioned may well be luced and changed some, as far as ng obliterated, I do not think they l." Her voice, deeper with age, ins a beguiling Texas cadence.

"Among the things that fill my " she says sweetly, "I wouldn't that Newt Gingrich is one."

She is dressed in a bright peach with gray hair brushed loosely er face. She leads the way in the library, past the signed portrait pe Paul VI ("Lyndon had a fason with popes," she says later), comfortable sofa that faces a y of such Johnson-era state s a 6th century B.C. Grecian rom King Constantine II and a filigree purse from Haile e. Enormous windows show te capitol, downtown Austin sta of dismal clouds.

ou see that sky out there?" she worried. The wildflower big preview weekend, with er as emcee, is at the end of the month, and she fears the unusually gray, dry spring will delay the bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush from making their normal breathtaking impression. "She can't do anything about the rainfall," later says her daughter, Lynda Robb. "But she wants everything to be absolutely top-notch."

Lady Bird's lifelong love affair with nature is well documented: Girl from east Texas grows up loving the violets of the countryside, is moved to preserve them when her husband the president tells Americans in his 1964 Great Society speech to clean up the air and water and save the wilderness.

If Lady Bird and the wildflower center are not on the cutting edge, as some native plant specialists say, they are America's leading popularizers of a sometimes ideological and esoteric movement. "It took her to make it palatable and accessible," says Ken Druse, environmentalist and author of natural gardening books.

As Lady Bird will tell you, no one is suggesting we uproot the tulips in Washington's parks and replace them with native grasses. Never mind that the native plant people refer to the tulip as an "alien."

"It is," she says. "It comes from Asia Minor. As do so many of our good things. And Lordy mercy, cheers to them. May we keep on growing them and cherishing them and all that." But "the indigenous things have not had anybody to speak for them and I want to preserve them. I want them to be there for my grandchildren and yours and everybody's. No ma'am. This is not a cut-things-out, this is an add-things-on. This is a natural respect for what the Lord put in your portion of the country."

Lady Bird says she'll be happy to give a quick tour of her new wildflower center, a half-hour drive through rolling hills where bluebonnets are starting. She changes from pumps to sensible walking shoes, then sighs that 60 years in the public eye are quite enough. Even now, she employs one full-time and one part-time secretary to handle mail.

"Lyndon might rise out of the grave and appear to me in anger if I didn't answer letters," she says. "But I've got to quit being on the public scene. I'm too old and too tired."

The wildflower center is a series of buildings in native Texas sandstone, connected by courtyards and terraces. Unfortunately, there isn't a wildflower in sight. A front-end loader pushes dirt and boulders in what will be a showplace of a meadow. The center will have display gardens, a children's house, a cafe, an auditorium, a gift shop. It will offer lectures, and operate as a national clearinghouse.

To Lady Bird, this is the natural evolution of her work as first lady. "I think a first lady, whoever she is, her first job is always to try to give her husband a more comfortable place in which to work," she says. "And then whatever it is in his program that appeals to her most, that makes her heart sing, she'll pitch in and help on that."

And if she were to wake up in the White House tomorrow? Would she be the same kind of first lady?

"I presume I would have in this imaginary world my same husband?" she asks.

Of course.

"I think I would try to do the same thing," she says. "Because you see, at 82, I am a product of a generation and a time before a woman was necessarily an activist. ... I have not become a child of the '80s and '90s. I am a child of the '20s, of the Depression, of the emergence on the world scene of America. And I belong to a different age.

"And" — she laughs — "I'm me."

Becoming first lady out of tragedy

By ELISABETH BUMILLER
THE WASHINGTON POST

AUSTIN — Lady Bird Johnson is running a civilized half-hour late for an interview at the LBJ Library. "Perhaps you might like to take a look at the exhibits downstairs," offers longtime assistant Betty Tilson. And there, just beyond the entrance desk, is the story of the first day of the Johnson presidency: Nov. 22, 1963.

"It all began so beautifully," says the disembodied voice of Lady Bird, played over and over for library visitors from a recording made a few days after John F. Kennedy's assassination, the start of a spoken White House diary. "After a drizzle in the morning, the sun came out bright and clear. We were driving into Dallas. ... Then, almost at the edge of town, on our way to the Trade Mart for the presidential luncheon, we were rounding a curve, going down a hill, and suddenly there was a sharp, loud report — a shot."

There's a handwritten letter from Jacqueline Kennedy to Lyndon Johnson on Nov. 26, the day after her husband's funeral:

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for walking yesterday — behind Jack. You did not have to do that — I am sure many people forbid you to take such a risk. But you did it anyway.

One recent milestone in Lady Bird's life was the death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, a woman she never thought she would outlive. "It was so unfair," she says. "I had the feeling that she had finally arrived at peace. Her world around her was the way she wanted it to be." Although Lady Bird was with Jackie Kennedy in Dallas, the two were never close. "Somehow that was one of the most poignant sights — that immaculate woman exquisitely dressed, and caked in blood," Lady Bird wrote in "A White House Diary," the book that grew from her recordings.

"Yes, we were distant," she says. "But that suited both of us. She had done so many things that I wouldn't have known how to do. ... I was not equipped for, nor did I desire to do, that magnificent job that she did restoring the White House. She was much, much younger than me. She was beautiful. She was raised in a social climate that was never mine. I love my life, my background, the world I occupied, but it was totally different from hers."



Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson confer aboard Air Force One on that fateful November day.

It was not easy to follow in Jackie's footsteps, and the striking thing about reading "A White House Diary" 30 years later is the insecure voice of a woman who became the first lady out of tragedy. "I feel like I am suddenly onstage for a part I never rehearsed," she remarked the first year of Johnson's presidency.

Things have changed. "You just finally shed that," she says.

She is predictably unhappy with her portrayal as LBJ's doormat in the first two volumes of Robert Caro's biography of Johnson.

"He never knew Lyndon," she says quietly. She describes her role as LBJ's "best friend. As somebody he could talk to, absolutely without fear. And that he could trust and believe in." Lady Bird's crucial role in Johnson's decisions to run for president in 1964 and not to run in 1968, is well-known. In 1964, she says, "I think he would have run, but I sure did want to make it clear that I thought he ought to." In 1968, as the Vietnam War split America apart, she again let him know her mind. She was terrified another four years in office would kill him, and she saw he was the wrong man for the time.

"This country needs to be united," she says. "And sadly, sadly, he wasn't the man who could do it."

He died in 1973, four years and two days after he left the White House.

lard work never killed anybody

Carl Kirk is still oing strong after 6 years of hard labor

ON SIMMONS JR./Staff

ver the past 96 years, Carl Kirk has more than 28 jobs — all of them hard. f I could change anything I wish I uld have gotten an education," Kirk s. "If I would have done that, I could e gotten some good jobs. Unfortu-ly, I never had nothing but hard work." irk says he was a sturdy young fellow ing the 1920s. There was plenty of k, but, in this area of the country, it work guaranteed to cause a man to ak a sweat.

irk was born in a log house near town Road in Rye Valley. His father him to work in the family garden at 5, digging potatoes and tending to the ily's cane crop.

We didn't have sugar so we used mo-es to sweeten the apple butter in them s," Kirk said. "We had 12 kids in the ily and we worked the garden all the e. My daddy was known as the Tater g in Marion. He sold potatoes for 50 ts a bushel."

ll of that hard work in the family den prepared Kirk for his first "real" — hauling timber off the mountains he old Extract plant in Teas. The plant le an extract from tree bark that was d in tanning hides.

used to haul the stuff down the moun-with a team of cattle," Kirk said.

e says he also helped build the Rye ey Railroad line, carrying water to the kers for five cents an hour.

irk says he worries that young people ay don't appreciate or even know what er members of the community went ough in the early part of this century. worked more than 28 different jobs. he of them for only one day and I even some without getting paid. I figured I n't making no money no way. Just 10 ts an hour. Even a hard life is easy adays."



Don Simmons Jr.

Carl Kirk says things have changed so much, "Even a hard life is easy nowadays."

Kirk left home around the age of 20 to look for work in the Roanoke area. His first job there waas at a Salem tannery. "We worked on our knees, scraping maggots from the hides for $1 a day. Board cost us 50 cents."

After that, he took a job working for the street car lines that covered the Roanoke basin, boiling poles in creosote.

■ See **WORK**, Page A3

Work

■ **WORK**, from Page A1

Kirk tried a stint "news butching" on a train between Roanoke and Bluefield, W.Va. According to Kirk, a news butch sold bananas, grapes and papers to passengers. Unfortunately, the trip between Roanoke and Bluefield was so short that nobody bought any fruit.

But the job did get him to Bluefield where he and his cousin spent a year and a half building fences and grading land. He also tried a little carpentry, lifting 80 pounds of shingles at a time to roofers.

Around that time, Kirk says he began working with his brother, George, who was a pretty good carpenter. They built five silk mills — two in Roanoke and three in West Virginia.

"Parkersburg was a good town," Kirk recalled. "There was lots of girls and I was still young. One of them sent me $10 and asked me to come back, but I was already married by then."

Eventually that work dried up and the two brothers made their way back to Virginia, spending at least a couple nights in a boxcar in Mullins, W.Va.

Kirk's search for work finally brought him back home to Smyth County. He got a job picking apples for the Bonham family and kept it until he got married to Pearl Sap in 1930.

In 1931, he bought a horse, leased a piece of land on Comers Creek and began farming again. The man he leased the land from died and Kirk bought the property from his widow. He raised beans, tobacco, sheep and cattle. He worked that farm for almost 28 years until after his first wife died in 1957.

"We used to sell eggs for 12 cents a dozen," he said. "Eventually I got rich off the eggs. Well — I made enough to keep us in groceries. I used to sit up and shuck corn all night. I had a 20-year loan to pay for."

After marrying his second wife, Mamie Hawkins Gose, Kirk bought some property on the South Fork of the Holston River where he's lived for the past 32 years. He tinued farming, working horses carrying rocks off the land to g tobacco.

"I've farmed for almost 84 y and ain't quit yet," Kirk said. carried tons and tons of rock lifetime."

Kirk's second wife died in 1

"I've enjoyed my life," he s "But over the years I've learne trust in God, not in man. I've some men beat me awful bad.



Don Simmo

Kirk said, "Parkersburg was a good town. There was lots of g and I was still young. One of them sent me $10 and asked to come back, but I was already married by then."

THOUGHT: Choice, not chance, determines destiny.

Marion.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. David Bowker of Williamsburg.

A program of wedding music was provided by Larry Hutton, local composer, and Candace Spencer, vocalist.

Tabatha Stevens Seymore served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Debbie Spencer, sister-in-law of the bride, Candace Spencer, niece of the bride and Molly Bowker, sister of the groom. Flower girls were Brittany Spencer, niece of the bride, and Marianna Bowker, niece of the groom. Teresa Jones Woods, cousin of the bride, attended the guest book.

Dr. David Bowker served his son as best man. Groomsmen were Fritz Bowker and Joel Bowker, brothers of the groom, and Tom Spencer, brother of the bride.

The wedding was directed by Leona Stevens. A reception was held in the church fellowship hall immediately following the ceremony.

The bride is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. She is employed by Chesterfield County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as a Case Manager. The groom is also a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice. He is employed by Chesterfield County Dept. of Mental Health/Retardation as a Residential Counselor.

Following a honeymoon in Cape Cod, Mass., the couple is living in Chesterfield County. ❑



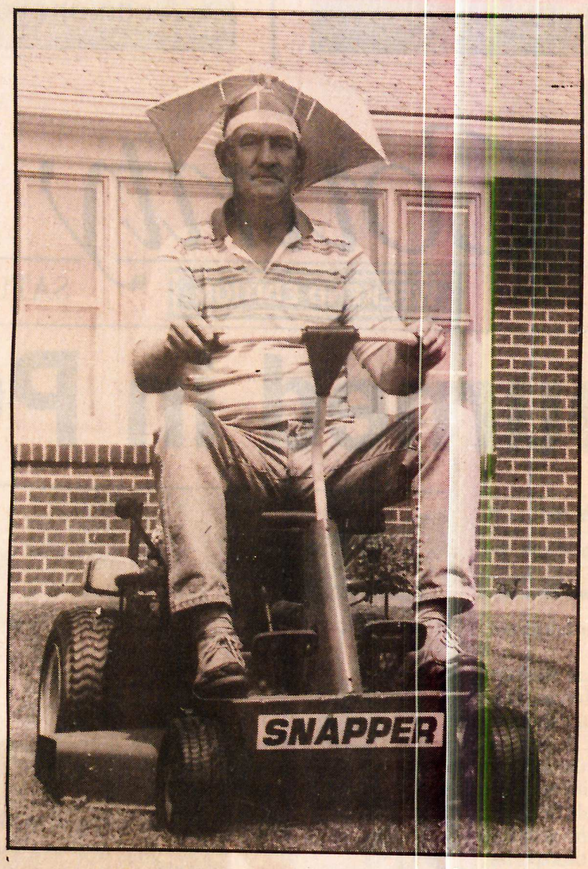
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Bowker

Spencer, Bowker

Karen Ann Spencer and Thomas Crenshaw Bowker were united in marriage on June 3 at Marion Baptist Church. The Rev. Kenneth Price officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Spencer of

Old fashioned ingenuity



Don Simmons Jr.

MOWIN' IN THE RAIN–Actually, Jimmy Farmer of Sugar Grove isn't trying to stay dry. He's found a unique way of beating the summer heat with this unique umbrella hat. Farmer says he purchased the hat at a flea market in Tazewell. Happy mowing.

Checklist promotes child safety

Last year, over five million children were injured in their homes, and of these, children under the age of five were most likely to die as a result of these injuries. To reduce such injuries in Virginia, the Commonwealth's Head Start Injury Prevention Subcommittee has created a home safety checklist and is training Head Start's Home Visitors to conduct home safety inspections.

"Parents want to protect their children from danger, especially dangers found in the home," says Jeanne Sanders, R.N., M.S.N., coordinator of Virginia Commonwealth University's Childhood Injury Prevention Program and chairman of the Virginia Head Start Injury Prevention Subcommittee. "This project will help Head Start families by providing the information they need to make homes safer for children. The safety checklist and safety inspections will help us reach approximately 80 families with valuable information."

The 57-item checklist will be used by the seven Home Visitors assigned to Richmond City and Middlesex County families with Head Start children ages three to five. In addition to conducting home safety inspections and providing safety education literature, the Home Visitors will install safety items, such as electrical-outlet protectors and smoke detectors, when necessary.

"The safety checklist targets potentially dangerous areas in the home, such as the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, as well as play areas inside and outside the home," explained Sanders. "We expect this project to reduce the risk of injury to children who participate in home-based Head Start programs. After three months, the Home Visitors will make follow-up visits to see if our suggestions have been implemented."

The one-year pilot project to improve home safety is funded in part by the Virginia Department of Health. Sanders hopes that after the pilot project is completed, additional funding will be provided to allow the program to expand to the entire state.

The project will provide safety items to families who need them through support from the Commonwealth of Virginia Safety Council, HUMCO, Lowes, Mr. BabyGuard, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office, Virginia Power, Virginia SAFE KIDS and Wal-Mart.

Home Safety Checklist

(Excerpted from the Home Safety Checklist developed by the Virginia Head Start Injury Prevention Subcommittee.)

1. Are household cleaning products, medicines, vitamins, alcohol, perfumes and other harmful substances kept in their original containers and stored away from children in a cabinet with a safety latch or lock?

2. Does an adult always stay in the room to supervise children preschool age and younger while bathing?

3. Is the hot water heater adjusted to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or less to prevent tap water scalds?

4. Are rifles and other guns stored unloaded in a locked cabinet? Is ammunition stored separately in a locked container?

5. Does playground equipment have an appropriate amount of surfacing material beneath and around it? (Appropriate surfacing materials include sand, mulch and smooth gravel.)

6. Are pools and other bodies of water on the property or in the neighborhood protected from use by unsupervised children?

7. Are working smoke detectors properly placed throughout the home?

8. Are 911, the local emergency medical services and poison center numbers posted near the telephone?

9, Are children under the age of four always buckled in a U.S. Department of Transportation-approved safety seat when riding in a car?

10. Do children wear approved bicycle helmets when riding bikes? (Helmets should meet the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials or the Snell Memorial Foundation. Such helmets will be labeled on the outside or inside as either ANSI, ASTM or SNELL approved.)

—Virginia Commonwealth University

ETERNAL YOUTH

Good food, fellowship secret ingredient for adding quality to life

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

For centuries, New World explorers searched in vain for Ponce de Leon's elusive fountain of youth. A group of senior citizens in the Sugar Grove and Teas communities has found a much more practical way to fight the effects of aging. And they've found it right in their own back yard.

At its second meeting, held Monday, June 5, at the Sugar Grove Baptist Church, the Rye Valley Young-at-Hearts founders were amazed at the turnout.

The lasagna, fried chicken, deviled eggs and desserts were delicious treats for the 55 seniors who attended the group's organizational meeting and potluck lunch, but club members weren't the only ones who got to enjoy the meal. As soon as the meeting was over, this group of enterprising senior citizens prepared box lunches from the feast to take to shut-ins who couldn't make it to the meeting.

"I was raised up here in Sugar Grove and there's just too many good people here who aren't involved," said Gale Hutton, who advertised the group's first two meetings by getting area churches to announce them in their bulletins. "I've been retired for three years and I told my wife Grace that we needed a group like this in the community."

Hutton and club president Roy Hall said they expect interest in the club to continue to grow, but they were still surprised by the large turnout.

"It's easy to get old if all you do is sit around the house," Hutton said. "But we plan to do some community service projects, visit some of the area nursing homes and maybe even take a few bus tours. With a group this big, you could fill up a bus pretty quick."

People attended the meeting for a variety of reasons, but the opportunity for fellowship was at the top of everyone's list.

"We've been missing a club like this, so I came to see what it was all about," said Virginia Currin.

Janelle Hamric says a group like the Rye Valley Young-at-Hearts allows people from different ends of the community and from different churches to get together and share each other's company and ideas.

"I like it all," said Retta Bailey. (At 93, Bailey was the oldest member at the meeting.) "I don't get out very much anymore, so it's nice to see all the people."

"Right now, we're just getting people interested, but we hope to do more community-oriented things in the future," says club treasurer Joanne Barton. "With so many seniors, you expect the cooking to be good; but if we have many more potluck lunches like this, we're going to have to form an exercise club."

The Rye Valley Young-at-Hearts will hold meetings on the second Monday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Sugar Grove Baptist Church fellowship hall. ❑

■ See YOUNG, Page B10

Good food

■ YOUNG, from Page B1



Don Simmons Jr.

Louise Pugh and 93-year-old Retta Bailey get ready to enjoy a potluck lunch at the second meeting of the Rye Valley Young-at-Hearts. After the meeting, members prepared meals for area shut-ins.



Don Simmons Jr.

Anne Parsons, Juanita Anderson and Ida Cullop help get the meals together for shut-ins who weren't able to attend the meeting.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Hillary Clinton launches mammogram campaign

Too few older women are getting mammograms—and too few know that Medicare helps pay the cost of these safe X-rays.

That was First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's message to the White House Conference on Aging early in May.

"This is an issue that touches every American," Clinton told the packed audience. "We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer—a grandmother, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a friend, or, as in my case, a mother-in-law."



"I hope every American will encourage the women in their lives to get regular mammograms," urges Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton, who recently kicked off a national campaign to urge greater use of mammograms by older women, was joined on stage by Fran Oliver, a volunteer with AARP's health advocacy services; medical experts; and representatives of various consumer and aging organizations.

Clinton talked about common barriers for older women seeking mammograms. Oliver and other panelists spoke about outreach efforts that have worked in their communities.

Clinton's interest in the issue, says AARP Breast Care Campaign director Lisa Rubenstein, is good news for groups like AARP, which have worked to increase awareness of the mammography benefit.

Clinton plans a year-long campaign to focus attention on the issue. Among the information older women and their families need to know, says Clinton and other women's health advocates:

- The risk of breast cancer rises with age—and early detection saves lives.
- Half of all American women 50 and older haven't had a mammogram in the last year or two.
- Medicare helps pay for mammography screening every two years for women age 65 and older. The required intervals between screenings vary for disabled enrollees younger than 65.

For the location of the FDA-certified mammography screening center near you, call (800) 4-CANCER.

JULY 1995

Leader - Pres. Eva Jarvis
Devotional - Nell Ross
Business - Plans for next meeting
Activity - Fun Day Away from Home



Extension problem should improve by '96

Extension woes will get worse before they get better. But by next summer, the most pain felt by state budget cuts on the Virginia Cooperative Extension should be mostly over.

That was the basic message given to the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors May 24 by Dr. Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech.

Swiger explained that $5.7 million has been earmarked by the Allen Administration for employee buyouts of 126 staff persons, primarily Extension agents.

That's on top of a $2.4 million cut in Extension and agricultural research operating funds for the next fiscal year that was ordered by the 1995 General Assembly.

The latest spending plan for Extension leaves that organization with only two-thirds of the budget it had five years ago, and programs are suffering as a result, Swiger said.

"We are paying $5.7 million for people not to work for us," he told the board. "We are losing a lot of people, and it's costing us a lot of money."

When the current two-year budget plan is complete on July 1, 1996, Swiger said 72 Virginia Cooperative Extension offices will employ two or fewer agents. In its heyday, Extension posted more than 400 agents across every Virginia county. Soon the count will be down to only 243.

"But when things turn around, we'll be ready," he said. Swiger said a realistic plan to operate the future Virginia Cooperative Extension is to get the business community and college faculties more involved in the planning.

"Get to the grass roots to plan," he said. Part of that vision for the future may be to move away from the traditional setup of an agricultural, 4-H and home economics agent in each county, Swiger said.

VFBF board member Jerry Jenkins, a Lunenburg County tobacco grower, asked if there were plans to hire some of the early retirees as consultants.

"We are looking hard at that right now," Swiger replied and added that a lot of questions still center around the cost-sharing of local, state and federal funds.

In addition to the state buyout program, many agents are also eligible for federal retirement program payments, but cannot receive them if they remain employed by Extension.

Swiger was optimistic the funding situation would improve by July 1, 1996 when the effects of the state buyout plan finally phases out.

If the legislature provides funding at the current level or even increases it, perhaps as many as 75 to 100 positions could be restored by then, he estimated.

—Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

No water, no electricity, no problem

Cave dweller lives without hassles of convenience

By JAY S. POLACHEK/Staff

Marvin "Cheat" Sheets doesn't have any electricity, running water or cable television.

"There ain't nothing on TV but violence anyway, so I might as well just listen to my radio," he said.

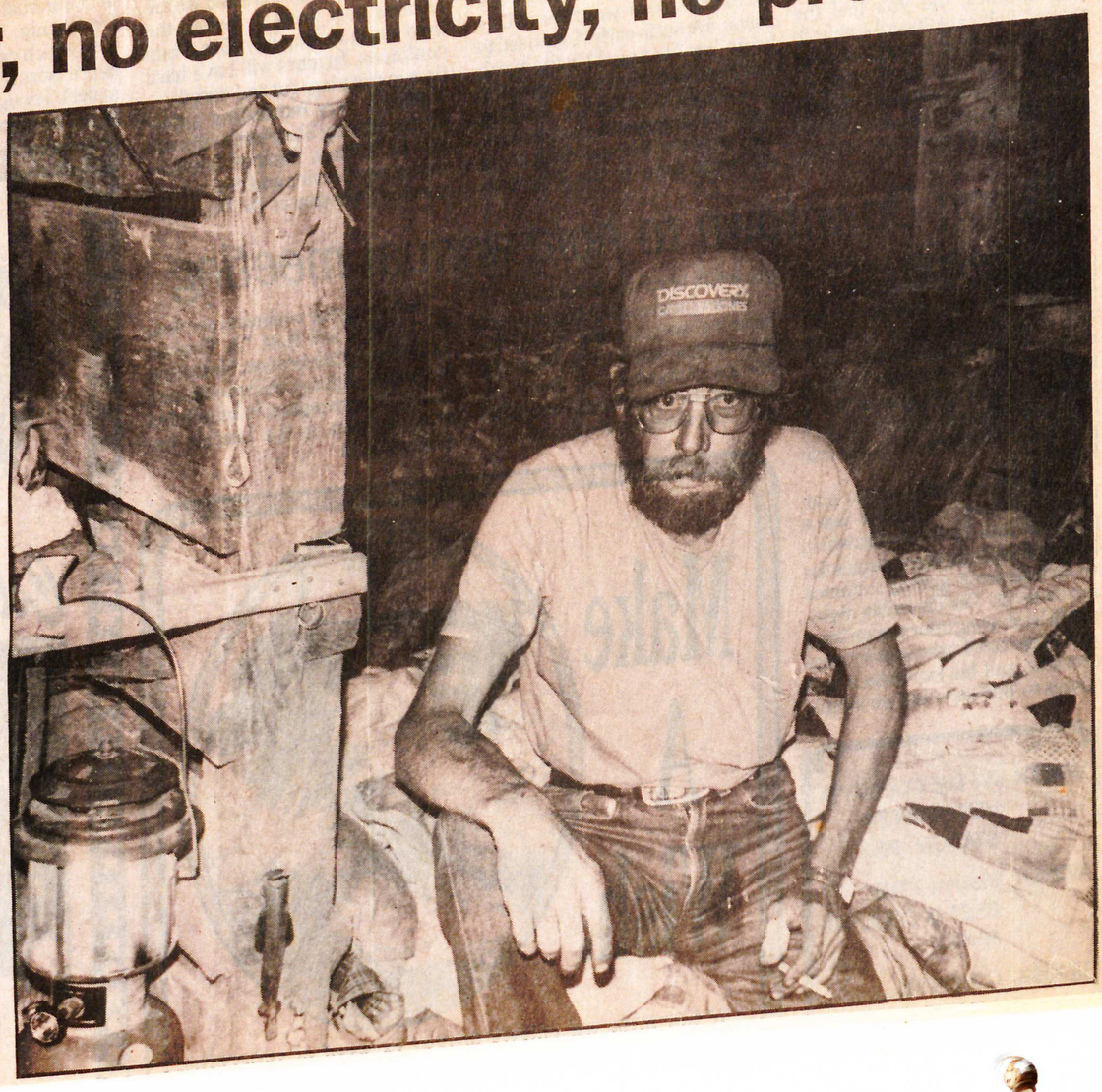
Sheets lives in a cave.

He has lived in his cave for "almost five years. It's air conditioned — and I don't need no heat in the winter," Sheets said. He said that the temperature in the cave stays an even 67 degrees year round. "I sleep with just a light blanket over me all year," he said.

When he wants to brush his teeth or get a drink, Sheets can go outside to a stream that runs past his home.

"When I need to take a shower," Sheets said, "I've got a sister and a brother at both ends of the bridge."

Sheets has spent his whole life in Sugar Grove. He has done stints as a moonshiner, a cattleman, and — most recently — a jack-of-all-trades. He also said that he spent three years in the Army — 11 months of those during a tour in Vietnam. "I've done a little bit of everything," Sheets said. "Name it and I guess I've done it. But, I never mastered none of my trades yet." All Sheets would say about his time moonshining is that he was about 14 or 15 when he started helping his father make and run moonshine.



Jay S. Polachek

Marvin "Cheat" Sheets has lived in a cave in Sugar Grove for the past five years. He claims to have once shared his bed with a bear.

He said that 30 years ago, there was a big market for moonshine in the Marion area.

"But I'm not going to give out any names of influential Marion people who bought it," he said.

Sheets did say that he may have sampled some of his father's brew once or twice. "Hell, I wouldn't sell nothing I wouldn't drink myself," he said.

Sheets said his cave used to be a potato cellar where people stored potatoes and canned foods.

He pulled out a bag of potatoes that he said he had bought about two months ago and kept in the cave and they were still good. Sheets said that he doesn't cook very often, but sometimes he gets a hankering for some potatoes or a pot of beans. "Usually I just go to the [Sugar Grove] Diner for my one meal a day," he said.

Sheets said he isn't worried about critters, but one time a black bear decided to visit. Sheets said he wasn't very big, and "was just exploring."

The bear "wanted my bed, and I told him he could have half of it if he wanted it," Sheets said.

Sheets said at one time that he kept a mouse as a pet. "I fed him and then he brought his whole damn family around. I finally set a bunch of mouse traps and caught me seven of them," he said.

Sheets said that when he's sitting out in his recliner out front of his cave, people are always honking their car horns, waving to him or stopping to talk.

"This guy from National Geographic Explorer came by one day and said he and his wife had heard about me when they were eating in the diner," Sheets said. "They stayed and talked for about an hour or better.

"He asked me if I would mind if he brought a camera crew back to do a story and I just told him I'd rather he didn't."

Sheets says he is content with his unusual lifestyle. He said he's "got a house trailer that I could live in, but why pay for a light bill and for air conditioning?"

Holding a can of lantern fuel, Sheets said, "Right now, I only have to pay $4.99 every six months for my light bill." ❑

Birds on the farm

Who knows? It may be the perfect convergence of trend and necessity.

Many Americans have come to realize that as tasty as slabs of Virginia country ham and juicy sirloin steaks are, the road to high blood pressure and heart trouble is paved with such meals.

But Americans are still a carnivorous lot. Tofu just won't do for most people. That's why emu farming, like the fledgling operation in Sugar Grove, may not be as strange a proposition as it seems at first.

Emus, of course, are ostrich-like creatures from Australia. Their meat is low in cholesterol and fat but that is only part of emus' appeal. Emus can be rendered into oils and lotions that have a soothing, perhaps healing quality.

They say you can eat every part of a pig except the squeal. Likewise, there's a use for every part of an emu except the squawk.

Emu ranching may not be the wave of the future, but it makes an important point. It is getting harder and harder to make a living as a farmer. What worked a generation ago is likely to bring financial ruin today. Farming isn't farming any more. It's agribusiness. Versity and flexibility are vital. To be successful, farmers must be willing and able to adapt. That may mean planting broccoli where tobacco used to grow. It may mean computerizing. It may mean learning to play on the commodities market. It may even mean raising exotic livestock. ❑

A new newspape
for Smyth Coun

August 23, 1995

BRIAN SEALS/Staff

This is the first edition of the
nyth County News & Messen-
r — a combination of two
nyth County newspapers.
This is not an unusual occur-
nce in the newspaper industry
ese days, nor is it unusual in
e history of newspapers in
nyth County. Since the first
own paper was launched in
arion in 1858, the county has
en several closings, openings
d combining of newspapers.
d, though times and styles
ve changed over the last 100-
is years, there's a lot that has
nained the same in the field of
mmunity journalism.
The first newspaper in the
unty was the Marion Visitor,
cording to Goodrich Wilson's
istory and Traditions of Smyth
unty." The paper was pub-
ned by George J. Curtis and
nes W. Kennedy.
A prospectus dated Feb. 15, 1861, out-
es the papers aims. According to Wil-
n, the paper, like the one serving Smyth
unty today, was to be a family newspa-
r. It was to be "neutral in politics, and
voted to literature, news, science, agri-
ture and general intelligence." It was
ned at Smyth and adjoining counties
l cost $2 a year.
The Visitor was probably a casualty of
Civil War. The last known record of it
s in December 1864, according to Joan
nstrong's "History of Smyth County."
nstrong believes the paper met its
nise in Stoneman's Raid. Gen. George
neman claimed to have destroyed four
uthern newspapers. He didn't mention
e Visitor as one of those, he did claim
troying the nearby Bristol and Abing-
don papers.

That was far from being the end of the free press Smyth County, however. In the years just following the Civil War, there were two papers that published in the county.

One was the Marion Record which published in 1867. According to letters of Capt. D.D. Hull, published in Armstrong's "History of Smyth County," the Record was a radical paper. Marion's well-known captain apparently didn't think much of it.

"I believe that the Marion Record is the only radical paper this side of Richmond and its editor is a fair representation of his party in this state," Hull wrote in an April, 1867 letter to his sister. "I quit sending the paper because it should not be read by decent people, but I send you a copy so that you may see what it is."

■ See **NEWS**, Page 10





Polly Ernest
Eva Jarvis
Burts Garden
Trip.

A new newspaper

August 23 1995

■ **NEWS**, from Page A1

Another apparently short-lived paper was the Southern Star, the last known publishing date of which was in 1870. Its editor was I.P. Hoyt and its editorial page listed candidates for the Conservative ticket, with New York's Horatio Seymour as a candidate for president. An editorial titled "The People Cry for Peace" appears on the page and derides the Radical party. It states there are men in the South "who are not brave enough and bold enough to act from convictions of justice and break the ties of prejudice and association which bind them to the Radical party."

The next significant evolution in Smyth County journalism was in 1869 with the publication of the Marion Herald. Kennedy, editor of the Visitor, teamed with M.P. Venable to published this paper, according to Wilson. At the same time, Fayette McMullin began publishing the Patriot. This paper was sold to Venable and the papers were combined into a single paper, the Patriot and Herald.

The Patriot and Herald would be an impetus to the creation of a forerunner of what would eventually be the Smyth County News.

That's because William C. Pendleton purchased an interest in the paper, according to Wilson. Pendleton was a Readjustor — he didn't think the state should be held responsible for all the debt built up during the War of Northern Aggression. Pendleton made sure his paper followed that ideology. That intransigence led to the launch of another publication, The Conservative Democrat, which began publishing about 1881 and lasted until 1924. One of its editors, according to Wilson, was a one-armed professor named R.H. Brown, who taught at Marion Academy. Famed Smyth County lawyer and former Lt. Gov. B.F. Buchanan controlled the Democrat for a time.

The Democrat passed through a couple of owners before being bought by R.A. Anderson in 1918. Prior to that, a publication known as the Southwestern News was established in Marion. In 1896, Anderson and C.B. Francis bought this paper and changed the name to the Marion News.

In 1918, the Marion News bought the Democrat and the two papers were published by Marion Publishing Co. The News was a Republican publication and the Democrat was, oddly enough, a Democratic newspaper.

A.L. Cox served as publisher and in June 1926, the Marion News was changed to the Smyth County News.

Perhaps the most noteworthy of all newspaper publishers in the county settled near Troutdale about 1925. After experiencing a little rural boredom, Sherwood Anderson bought the papers in 1927. By 1931, his son, Robert Lane Anderson, was in control of the papers. The two papers were merged into the Smyth County News around 1942.

Since then, the paper has changed hands several times. Worrell Enterprises sold the paper to Family Community Newspapers in 1992.

While most of Smyth County's newspapering has gone on in Marion, The Saltville Progressed published in Saltville from September 1959 to December 1979. The Saltville News-Messenger began publication in January 1981.

FCN bought the News-Messenger in November 1992. With this edition, the Smyth County News and Saltville News-Messenger are combined into the Smyth County News & Messenger — and with the ghosts of the Marion News, the Conservative Democrat and the Marion Democrat. ❑





Polly, Eva, Darlene
Family Picnic

Coping with life means more than positive thinking

THE WORD

DENNIS J. PRUTOW

To cope with life means you are up to the challenge. Not only so, to cope means you meet the challenge head on. You are equal to the task.

But our own inner strength is not enough. We often fail. When we do, we throw our hands in the air and cry, "I can't cope."

What is the answer? The Bible says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). In other words, "I am able; I can."

The point is not positive thinking. We don't conjure up the strength. The point is we are given real ability, strength and usefulness. It is given to us by Christ through the Holy Spirit.

What we are talking about is heart power. We think differently than we did before. We see problems from a new perspective. Our emotions are also tempered. Like a rod of tempered steel, we bend but snap back. We simply handle things better. We are also given new will-power. We are not afraid to make decisions so we can make decisions more easily.

Christ gives us this strength. As a result, we can cope with the life that comes our way.

If you find you can't cope, the power is at hand. It is not in your hand. It is in the hands of Christ. Turn to him.

Call 1-800-777-0389 toll free for the "mini-message of the week."



On hand to accept the donation were: Roger Cooper, SCCH president; Paddie Scott, vice president

Memorial golf tournament raises money for ill children

The ninth annual John Greear Memorial Invitational Tournament was held July 27 & 28 at the Holston Hills Country Club.

The proceeds of the tournament, which totaled approximately $700, were donated to Smyth County Community Hospital to bring special items to the pediatric unit.

The tournament was initiated in 1986 by Bobby Greear in memory of his brother John who died that year of cancer. The Greear's grew up in Sugar Grove, and John was a member of the Holston Hills Country Club where he had many friends.

Sixty players from across the United States participated in the Memorial Tournament to honor John's memory and to make a donation to the SCCH pediatric unit. The proceeds will be used for large lego blocks, children's videos and books, and a walker for the unit.

"What a wonderful gift," said Mary Holman, pediatric unit supervisor. "The money donated will be used for new toys, books and videos. Being in the hospital can be an uneasy experience for a child, and we like to make them as comfortable as possible. Updating some of the playroom items will help us do that." ❑

The 4th

On June 7, 1776, Virginia's Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution in the Continental Congress that English colonies on the east coast of North America declare themselves independent states. Congress approved that resolution on July 2.

The next day, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail: "The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sorts, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

Adams was right about the celebration, but he missed the date. Instead of marking the day that the colonies' representatives voted for independence, Americans celebrate the day that the Continental Congress approved Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence and ordered that it be "authenticated and printed."

Jefferson wrote that the declaration was "reported by the commee., agreed to by the house, and signed by every member present except Mr. Dickinson." There may have been two signings or Jefferson's memory may have failed him — he was writing several years after the fact — for there is no contemporary record of a signing until Aug. 2. One signature was added as late as November.

Not only do we celebrate the wrong date, we sometimes seem a little foggy on our reasons for celebrating. While the Continental Congress declared that the colonies "are and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States" in July of 1776, that assertion did not become a reality until the last British troops left New York on Nov. 25, 1783.

That outcome was far from certain in 1776 when the members of Congress signed the declaration that ended: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." The men who signed the Declaration of Independence knew that wasn't an idle statement. It was entirely possible that they would lose their fortunes and their lives.

Adams, in that letter to his wife, wrote, "I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States."

But Adams and the others were aware of what the rewards could be. Adams wrote to Abigail: "Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means, and that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even though we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not." ❑

1994

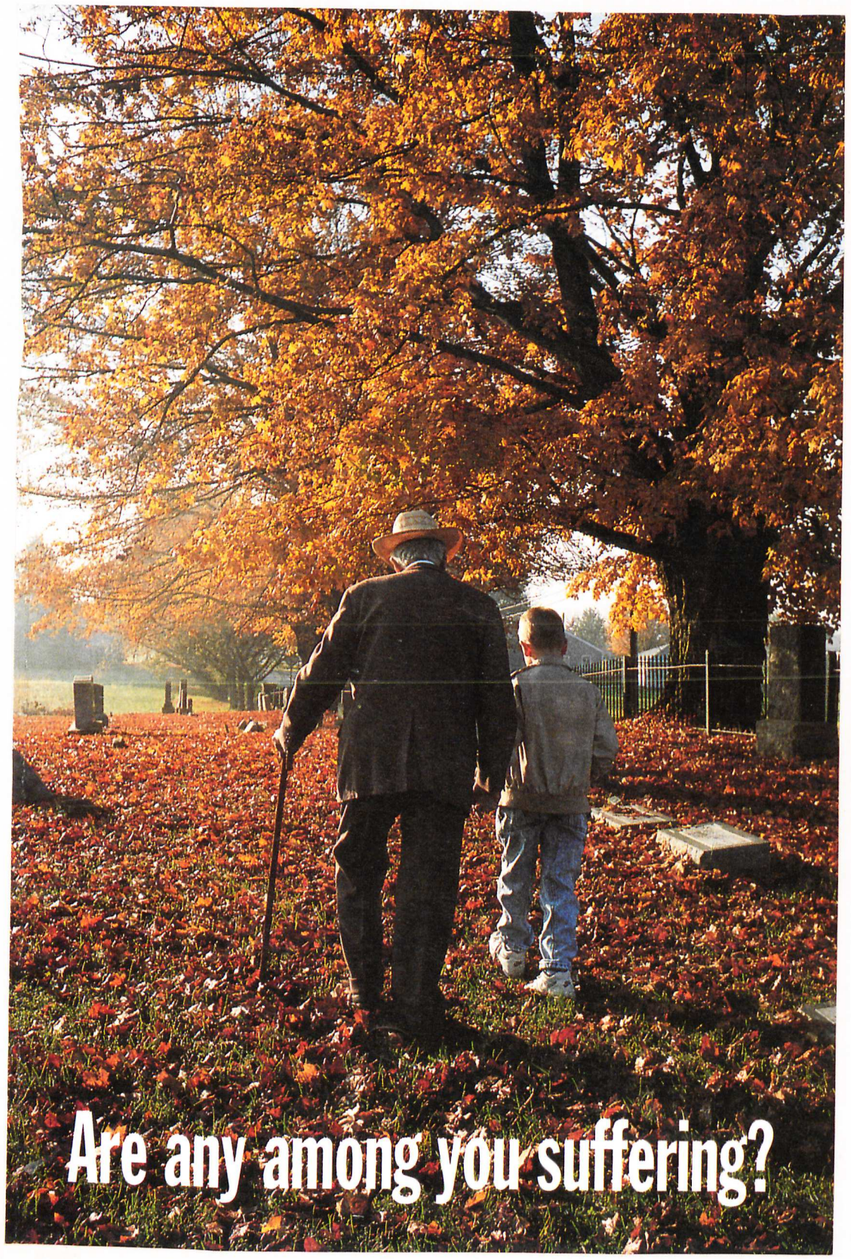
Publication 348-900

Fat TRACKER

1. Follow the Food Guide Pyramid servings for a nutritious diet.
2. Minimum - Maximum servings = 1600 - 2500 calories.
3. For 30% fat calories: Minimum 50-55 g., Maximum 93-95 g.

- Check recipes & package labels for grams of fat.
- 1 gram of fat contains 9 calories.





AUGUST 1995

Hostess - Club
Devotional - Nell Ross
Leader - Pres. Eva Jarvis
Business - Roll Call - treasurer's report
Choose - Sept. project
Project - Thelma Hawthorne - Plastic Canvas Ideas



THOUGHT: It is not enough to say a prayer, we have to live it too.

RECIPE: GARDEN DRESSING

¼ cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons parsley, minced
1½ teaspoons chives, chopped
1½ teaspoons green pepper, minced
½ teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon dry mustard
¼ teaspoon salt
Pepper to taste

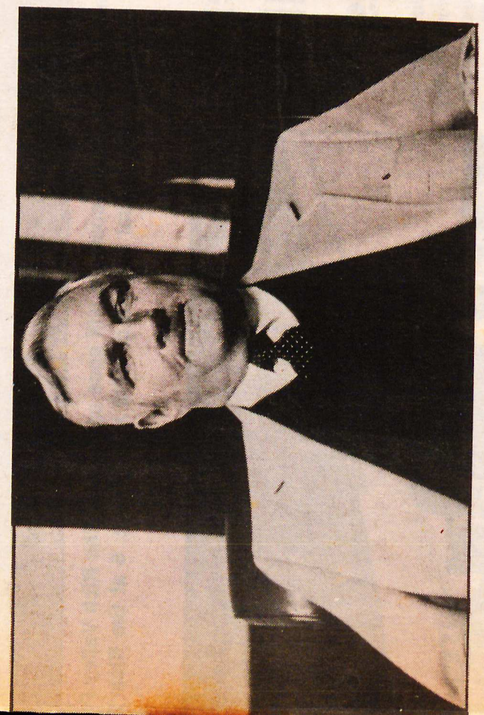
Combine ingredients in a jar. Cover and shake vigorously. Chill 3 hours. Serve over salad greens.
Yield: 1/3 cup.

Center honors Jennings and his contribut



Above, a monument memorializes W. Pat Jennings Sr.'s foresight in sponsoring the Mou Recreation Area Act. Left, Jennings will be remembered as a leader who "could walk w talk with kings and not loose the common touch."

'He always looked to the future'



By GLENNA ELLEDGE/Staff

Mount Rogers was his special place. In a dedication ceremony held on Saturday, July 22, the visitors' center on Route 16 was officially named for the man who was the author and sponsor of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Act. The Center is now the W. Pat Jennings, Sr. Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Visitors' Center.

As a memorial to Jennings, a flower garden has been erected. In the garden there is a waterfall, designed to look like any of the various sparkling streams that cascade over rocks and tumbles through the Mount Rogers NRA. In the center's plaza, a stone monument commemorates Jennings' service to the region.

Inside the center there is a permanent display case containing memorabilia emanating from the time that Jennings served in the Congress. Among the items on display is the pen used by President Lyndon Johnson on May 31, 1966 to sign the bill that created the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

The story of the man and of his special place was told by various speakers during the dedication ceremony. Raymond Colley, Jennings' former chief of staff, recalled that it took more than six years of intensive effort before Jennings, with the help of senators Byrd and Robinson, finally managed to push the bill through Congress.

"This was all being done while Jennings served on the House agriculture committee and on the forest subcommittee," Colley said, "so he did have an opportunity to keep badgering to get this legislation adopted."

Colley recalled a speech Jennings gave at the Grindstone Recreation Area in 1970. Jennings quoted from the Psalms, "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my strength." He had the strength, Colley said.

During his service in the House of Representatives, Congressman Rick Boucher commented, Jennings achieved a great deal for Southwest Virginia. "As a member of the House Agriculture Committee he championed the

"Our region is a better place because of Pat's public service, and we are each better individuals because we have been privileged of knowing him."

– Congressman Rick Boucher

interests of the family farmer. He strengthened the school lunch program by sponsoring the legislation that directed the surplus wheat and the surplus corn to the manufacture of flour, which in turn could be used for school meals. He promoted the establishment of the first food stamp program and saw to it that one of the first pilot projects of that food stamp program took place here in the 9th District of Virginia.

"He was a champion of economic development. He oversaw the early work that led in 1965 to the creation of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a commission that has done so much to advance the quality of life in Southwest Virginia, building industrial parks, water systems, other industrial infrastructure, adding to our educational base, building roads to tie us to the mainstream of American commerce. Pat Jennings had a major hand in the formation of that agency which over 30 years has been such a great help to us.

"As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, he contributed greatly to the creation of Medicare, so that older Americans would have health care during their retirement years. He promoted flood control, including the John Flannagan Reservoir in Dickenson County, new highways—including interstates 77 and 81 — airport development and conservation of our national resources, particularly within the Jefferson National Forest. He sponsored, as the chief patron, the legislation that created the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, the headquarters of which this event is taking place.

"The Mount Rogers NRA has been tremendously important to the construction of the tourism economy which has been taking place in Southwest Virginia. Every year tens of thousands of visitors come to the Mount Rogers NRA, and it is the cornerstone of our tourism development efforts in this part of the Ninth District. Many people who come here primarily to visit the NRA then visit other attractions in Southwest Virginia. Pat understood that. He understood that by

Center honors Jennings

By PAUL DELLINGER
Landmark News Service

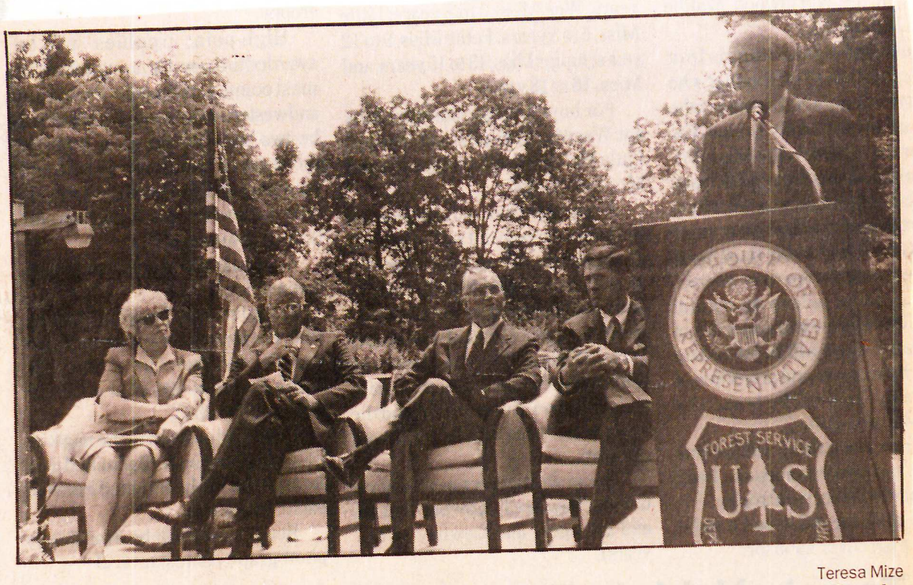
SUGAR GROVE — W. Pat Jennings Sr., a former congressman and House clerk who died in a tractor accident a year ago, showed Saturday that he could still move people.

An estimated 800 of them moved on shuttle buses and vans from Marion to the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Visitors' Center for a ceremony naming that center for Jennings. Legislation sponsored by Jennings created the 18,000-acre NRA in 1966.

Speakers also found themselves moved in another way, some obviously holding back tears as they recalled their association with the man who represented the Ninth Congressional District from 1955 through 1966, and who served as House clerk from 1967 through 1975.

"In later years, he personally encouraged me to seek public service," said Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Abingdon, who now holds the congressional seat.

"His encouragement was never half-hearted. When Pat made up his mind to do something, there was no looking back," said Boucher, who held a luncheon after the ceremony for all those attending.



Teresa Mize

From left, Mary Ann Jennings Hovis and G.C. Jennings were joined at the podium by state Sen. Madison Marye, U.S. Sen. Charles Robb and Congressman Rick Boucher in voicing their memories.

creating this resource in these communities, he could help advance not only preservation of our national resources, but the economic development of the counties that immediately adjoin this portion of the Jefferson National Forest. Our region is a better place because of Pat's public service, and we are each better individuals because we have been privileged of knowing him."

United States Senator Chuck Robb referred to the NRA as a "special place," to the dedication ceremony, as a "special day," and to Jennings as a "very special man." Jennings was a favorite of his late father-in-law, President Johnson, Robb said, "because Pat understood the people he represented. He understood what he had to do, he understood what was important in life, he understood who his friends were. He was unfailingly loyal to his area, his roots were so deep in this area, this was someone who belongs, and I want to apologize to the forest interpreters here, for I know there are no redwoods in this particular area, but it seems to me if you want to figure out the tree that Pat Jennings represented it would have been the redwood, because it towers above all the rest of the forest and it stands so strong. That was Pat Jennings. And Rick made reference to Medicare, on Tuesday of this week we are going to have a ceremony in the capitol to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of that particular legislation. That was another one of the things Pat Jennings dared to care about.

"So I will close by saying thank you for honoring the memory of a very special human being ... I suspect there is nobody here who did not have the privilege of knowing and looking

■ See **HONORED**, Page B14

"My own family adored Pat Jennings," said Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va. "And I know my own father-in-law looked upon Pat Jennings as his very favorite."

He was referring to President Lyndon B. Johnson, who signed the NRA legislation. The pen he used is among memorabilia from Jennings' career on display at the center.

"He was the most eloquent stump speaker I've ever heard," said state Sen. Madison Marye, D-Shawsville. "He gave me the best jokes I have ever told."

Marye gave the first stump speech of his re-election campaign earlier at a gathering in nearby Marion. "I'm running against an opponent that is going to be well financed," said Marye, facing opposition, for the first time in 12 years, from Blacksburg realtor Pat Cupp.

Marye said education would be an important part of his campaign.

Robb endorsed Marye, saying a Republican congressional majority had upset things "and we don't want that to happen in Virginia."

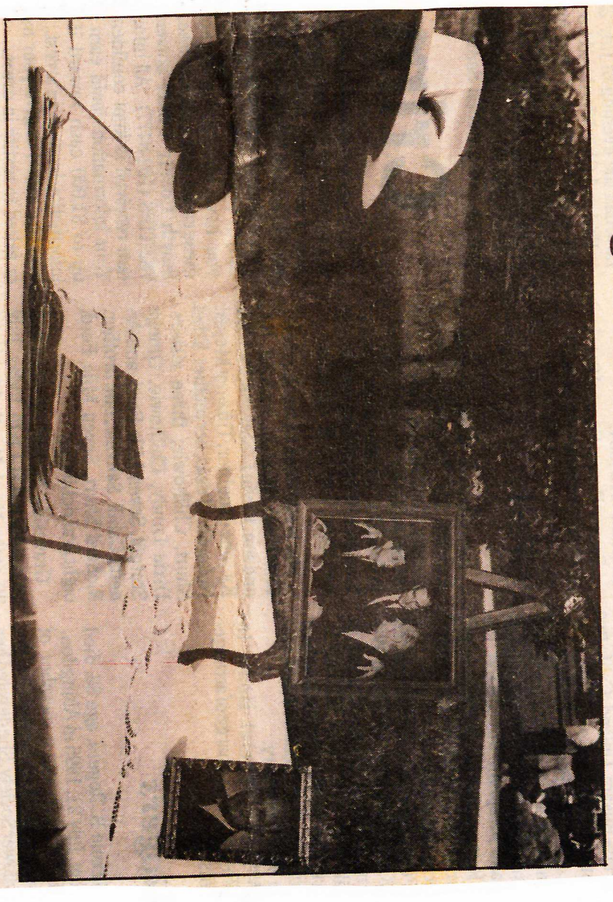
Jennings' daughter, Mary Ann Jennings Hovis, said a scholarship fund started in Jennings' honor is halfway to where it can generate scholarships off its interest. The money has been transferred from the Bank of Marion to the Virginia Tech Foundation.

One of his three sons, former delegate G.C. Jennings, said his father's philosophy was reflected in what President Kennedy used to say about it being better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

Keith Argow, the first NRA ranger, recalled meeting Jennings 25 years ago. It led to a lifelong friendship up to Jennings' death Aug. 4, 1994, at age 74.

At last year's memorial service, Argow said, "I saw a traffic jam like I don't ever expect to see again in downtown Marion."

The Jennings Center



Teresa Mize

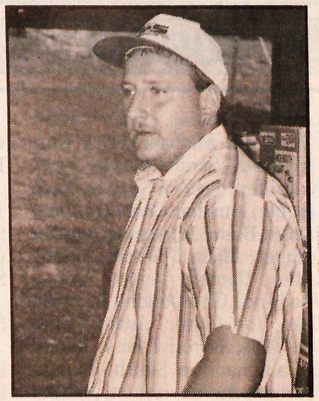
Momentos of Pat Jennings' congressional career were part of the dedication ceremony for the Pat Jennings Jr. Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Visitor Center. Read all about it on Page B4.

Sugar Grove farm recognized nationally for pond management

A local farm has been named a "Farm of the Year" finalist in a national competition sponsored by Progressive Farmer/Rural Sportsman magazine and Remington Arms Co.

Pageton Farms of Sugar Grove is one of two finalists in the "Farm Pond Management" category of the Wildlife Stewardship Farm Awards Program. James H. Richardson, owner of the 3,000-acre farming operation, grows tobacco and sugar cane as cash crops but also manages his farm ponds intensively for bass, trout, and hybrid bluegill.

The Wildlife Stewardship Farm Awards Program was created by Progressive Farmer/Rural Sportsman magazine and Remington Arms Co. to identify farms where lands and lakes are managed to benefit wildlife and made available, on some basis, for public use.



James H. Richardson of Pageton Farms in Sugar Grove has been named a finalist for the Wildlife Stewardship Farm Awards Program.

In naming Pageton Farms as a finalist, Rural Sportsman editor J. Wayne Fears praised Richardson's practice of encouraging local youth to fish. "Not only is Richardson doing an outstanding job of managing his fisheries, but he is also sharing his facilities and teaching children the enjoyment of fishing," Fears noted.

On Oct. 30, a "Farm of the Year" will be named in each of four categories: Upland Game, Waterfowl, Big Game, and Farm Pond. Winners in each category will receive a variety of prizes and an expenses-paid trip for two to Birmingham, Ala., for the awards presentation.

Progressive Farmer is the nation's oldest agricultural publication, while Remington Arms Co. is America's oldest firearms manufacturer. In 1994, Progressive Farmer created the Rural Sportsman section of the magazine to inform the rural landowner on the wise management and use of wildlife resources.

—Rural Sportsman

Patience really is a virtue

ONE WAY ORR ANOTHER

JERRY ORR I Staff

I'm a criminal.

Got caught for speeding.

It was bound to happen. Been too impatient too long. About time somebody noticed and told me to stop trying to get to the places I want to be so fast. Deserve my punishment.

A person shouldn't be allowed to speed through life. Everybody needs to be pulled over every now and then and told to slow it down and enjoy the scenery along the route more casually. What you're heading to may be important, but rushing toward it can make you miss enjoyment in the steps leading there. That oughta be against the law.

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans," they say. It's good to have goals and events to look forward to, but they shouldn't consume us at the expense of being able to enjoy the present.

So many times I just want to get a task over with, or a part of the day over with, so I can move on to something better. I want to get there, get done and get out.

Or I'm looking way ahead, to some day when I have everything figured out and everything ordered just like I want it. Patience for today can be hard to muster when the road to the first of those destinations seems impossibly long and the road to the second is littered with a pile of commitments, a pile of frustrations and a pile of loose ends.

I got a ticket to tell me I should give more attention to how fast I'm traveling from one point to the next. I should have to pay a fine for not giving each day its due, for not heeding all that advice about taking a day at a time.

I want it all, and I want it now. Sounds good, but it isn't how life works. Life has speed limits. Trying to get there too fast you can hurt others and miss out on a lot yourself.

Speeding toward tomorrow without the patience for appreciating today is more than a mistake. It's a crime. ❑

New litter officer cracking down on roadside garbage

By **JERRY ORR**/Staff

Jerry O'Dell thinks littering isn't just against the law, it's a crime against nature.

"This is the prettiest country in the world. I'm always amazed that people will go out into the most beautiful countryside and dump their garbage. Not only can the next person not enjoy [the scenery], but you can't either," he said.

"What can be worse than destroying the environment that we . . . and our children have to live in?" he asked.

O'Dell is beginning his second month in the new Smyth County job of special police officer. O'Dell works under the direction of the county administrator and is charged with enforcing litter laws. He's out to put a dent in the illegal dumping and random littering occurring throughout the county.

The Board of Supervisors decided that litter is such a problem, the county needed an officer specifically assigned to controlling it. "It will give us some actual law-enforcement authority that we really haven't had before. We could encourage people to clean up illegal dumps. This will give us some law-enforcement authority," County Administrator Ken Noble said.

"I'm a realist," O'Dell said. "There's no way this one person can go out in a county of this much area and take on this large area by himself."

But he said he wanted the job to do what he could.

"Idealistically, I wanted to try some way to make a difference. I care about the environment."

O'Dell has a 6-year-old son. "I don't think it's fair to give him a dirtier world than I have," he said. An avid fisherman, he said the trash he sees wading local rivers particularly angers him.

"I'd be kidding myself if I thought I was going to stop littering in Smyth County," he said.



Don't let this guy catch you dirtying up Smyth County.

"It's not going to happen, but I'd like to seriously curtail it."

"What I've been trying to do a lot of so far is identification," he said. He is seeing where the problem areas are and prioritizing jobs.

He is also not starting with a heavy-handed approach. In his first month, he wrote no tickets but sent many letters about possible violations, giving citizens a chance to respond to problems before pursuing legal action. "That's not to say I won't charge people," he assured.

He asks citizens who see litter violations to call him at 783-3229. After 5 p.m. on weekdays or anytime on weekends, citizens should call the Smyth County Sheriff's Department.

O'Dell said that if someone sees litter thrown from a vehicle, he can investigate if given the number on the license plate. He will look for material identifying violators in trash dumped along the roadside and elsewhere.

O'Dell has full enforcement authority for all county laws and will provide backup for other officers when he is on patrol. The other officers also have authority over litter laws, and O'Dell said he and they will be sharing a lot of information.

"What can be worse than destroying the environment that we . . . and our children have to live in?"

Jerry O'Dell
Litter Officer

O'Dell works a 40-hour week but will have irregular hours. He will be patrolling at different times of the day and night to catch those dumping trash illegally.

The special police officer will work with other county employees, including the recycling coordinator, in cleaning up dumps. Crews of jail inmates pick up trash, and O'Dell talked to General District Court Judge Joe Tate about including required trash pickup in penalties for those convicted of littering. County fines for improper trash disposal are $35 for a first offense and $100 for subsequent offenses.

Public education is also part of the litter-control officer's duty. He will be speaking to school and community groups and would like to stir up interest in Litter Watch programs, similar to Neighborhood Watch programs.

Becoming a visible, active presence in the community is what he wants to do. "What I hope is a little bit of presence will go a long way," he said.

O'Dell, 36, has done security work and worked as a military police investigator for the U.S. Army in northern Germany, investigating alleged criminal and civil misconduct by soldiers and their family members. He worked for the Chilhowie Police Department from 1986 until 1988 and from June 1992 until the county hired him in August.

He is originally from Bristol, Va., and now lives in the Piedmont area of Smyth County. ❑

Center honors Jennings and his contributions

■ **HONORED**, from Page B4

up at Pat Jennings. Thank you for caring about his memory, thank you for caring about the things he stood for, the people he represented, the causes he believed in. And thank you for coming to this dedication today."

State Senator Madison Marye recalled that Jennings was "the best stump speaker I have ever heard, bar none. He could take the most complicated elements and turn it into the language of the common man. I never tired of listening to his stories. He gave me the most successful jokes I have ever told.

"Pat was eternally young. His zest for life and fun made him this way. One of my favorite memories is of him playing his harmonica at the Democratic Convention with his buddy, Joe Smiddy, and a group at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond.

"Pat sincerely cared about everyday people, and especially those of Southwest Virginia. Pat was matchless in his experience, wisdom, and political maturity. I never tired of spending time with him.

"My last time with Pat was a dinner in Marion. I was seated between Champ Clark and Pat. Those two old friends regaled our table with laughter and stories, ate tons of salt on everything, and I marveled at their closeness, their love of life, and the amount of food that they both consumed.

"Friends, Pat Jennings was truly a great man, a son of Southwest Virginia who never doubted that his values, our values, were as strong and as true in the halls of Congress in Washington, D. C. as they were right here in Southwest Virginia. He could walk with kings, he could talk with kings and not loose the common touch. He could deal with adversity without stooping to lowness and meanness. Pat never looked back, he always looked to the future."

In his remarks, William "Bill" Damon, recently appointed supervisor for the Jefferson National Forest, commented, "Congressman Jennings was not only a man of fairness, he was also a man of vision and this national recreation area is the ultimate embodiment of that vision. For every hillside and ridge top that could be developed for economic gain, he envisioned the total garden that could be nurtured to provide building materials, clean air, fresh water, wild life, recreation for generations yet to be born.

"When some saw these beautiful mountains as land that could be divided into private parcels, he had a vision of the mountain wonderland that would be open to all of us for all time. It is no secret that it was a difficult decision and a difficult process to go through, but I am convinced that all of us through the years are going to grow to appreciate more and more just what kind of vision was embodied in the Congressman's push to create this national recreation area.

"More than 118,000 acres. Think about that," Damon said, "more than 118,000 acres that you and I and everybody else may roam to our heart's content. A place where we can hike, camp, picnic, ride horses, ride bicycles, hopefully not in the same place, fish, hunt, or just get out and enjoy it. And as long as we obey a few simple rules of courtesy and respect for each other and the environment, nobody can tell us to get off this land, because this is our land.

such as Congressman Pat Jennings, all of these treasures and countless more are ours to enjoy and for our children and their children to enjoy after those of us here today are all gone.

"The Mount Rogers NRA is a very, very special place. It is special because of 118,000 acres of natural wonderland, and because it contains three congressionally designated wildernesses and Virginia's tallest peak. It is special because it is home to 28 species of salamanders and many other species of plants and animals, some of which are found here and no where else. It is special because of its hundreds of miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling.

"It is special because of its plenitude of fish and game, because of its developed campsites, and because of its virtually unlimited opportunities for spreading a sleeping bag underneath nature's own great canopy, the sky. But most of all, the Mount Rogers NRA is important because it is a lasting monument to our commitment to preserve and protect for generations yet to be born a part of America's best.

"During the three decades in which the Mount Rogers NRA has been in existence, there have been many changes in our world, in our nation, in our lives, and in the way we view the natural world and our place as a part of it," Jostling said. "From a little known forest district tucked away in Southwest Virginia, Mount Rogers has grown into an internationally recognized natural wonderland. It is the destination for environmentally-aware guests from all over the nation, Europe, and other continents.

According to Robert C. Joslin, regional forester, the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area is truly one of America's richest treasures. "Gold, diamonds, silver, rubies are all here and it is here in unimaginable abundance," Joslin said, "but before you go rushing out with your picks and shovels let me explain that the treasures I am talking about aren't exactly the same kind as those you see in the local jewelry store. They are much more wonderful than cold metal or lifeless steel. The gold that I am talking about blankets the sides of Iron Mountain, Brushy Mountain and Fairwood Valley when sugar maples, poplars, and hickories put on their dazzling autumn show.

"No diamonds mined from beneath the earth can ever begin to compare with a sparkling mountain brook, or Whitetop Mountain when the sun finally breaks through after a January ice storm. Our silver is the flash of a wild trout in Green Cove, or Bear Creek Lake, or the glint of cold, winter moonlight on the ancient knobs of Welburn's Ridge. Our rubies are batches of bee balm growing beside the Mount Rogers scenic highway, the blood red berries of dogwood on the banks of the New River, or the flash of a cardinal's wings against the dark backdrop of red spruce.

"In the original legislation conceived by Congressman Pat Jennings the Forest Service was charged with the responsibility for developing, managing, and protecting this very special place. It is a charge that we take seriously, and will continue to take seriously.

"We, with your help, are the keepers and protectors of the gold, the diamonds, the silver, and the rubies. We are the guardians of the vision, and the custodians of the dream. If any of us are remembered at all a century from today, it is my hope that we will be remembered as good and faithful stewards of the treasures entrusted to us, that we loved these hills, and left them green.

" There can be no finer legacy. Thank you Congressman Pat Jennings for what you have provided for us."

The dedication concluded with Congressman Rick Boucher and Mrs. W. Pat Jennings, Sr., unveiling the memorial stone. Following the ceremony, Congressman Boucher hosted a luncheon with all attendees. Fescue provided the bluegrass music that was as much a part of Jennings as was his cowboy boots and ten-gallon Texas hat. Marye commented, "It is indeed a special day, in a special place, recognizing a special man." ❑

"There is a lot of talk about federal ownership of land these days, but the federal government doesn't own the land in the truest sense. Those of us in the forest service are truly privileged to manage it and protect it for the real owners, and that is you, that's all of us, the American people.

"Woody Guthrie once had a great song, 'This land is your land, this land is my land.' I really believe that. I know it wasn't easy to conceive and push this national recreation area for the mountains of Virginia through Congress, but aren't you glad that it happened?

"Congressman Jennings, if you are watching — and somehow I think he is — I would like to thank you for all you did, for me, personally, because it meant a world of difference for me personally, but more importantly for the American people, because this is going to be a national treasure for as far into the future as any of us could ever envision. So, thank you Congressman Jennings for having the vision and the guts to make the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area the living reality that it is today."

"Last year more than a million people came, making it a significant element in the local and regional economy. What you may not have realized, however, is that the NRA was also visited by additional millions of international travelers, none of whom had passports, but flew here, raised their families, then headed back to Central or South America.

"Their flights across the Gulf of Mexico took some of them as long as 20 hours, non-stop. That is pretty impressive for travelers who often weigh less than half-an-ounce.

"I am talking, of course, about the neo-tropical birds. There are some 75 species that come here. We need treasures like the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area to help maintain homes for those neo-tropical birds as they come through.

"Birds, butterflies, salamanders, fish, and rare plants, all of them make their temporary or permanent homes in this NRA. So you can see that this land is a very important place to many forms of life, not the least of which is that form of life we call humans.

A gathering in the grove

Sugar Grove students to reunite this weekend

By GLENNA ELLEDGE/Staff

In 1990, they flocked to Smyth County, filled the local hotels and motels, shopped till they dropped, reminisced and had a grand ole time. The event was called "The Gathering In of the Maple Leaves," the first ever reunion of students who ever attended the Sugar Grove School.

As early as 1860 a school existed in Sugar Grove known as Wharf Hill. This was replaced by a wood structure known as the Sugar Grove Academy, which burned in 1926. The academy was replaced by the building known as Sugar Grove School, which also burned in 1935. The present Sugar Grove School was first occupied in 1937 on the same site. In this same year, the Sugar Grove Black School was closed and students were moved to Carnegie in Marion. The school was integrated in 1964. At the beginning of this same school year, 1967, senior high school students moved to Marion. The Sugar Grove School facilities, as they exist today, have had four additions to the 1937 structure.

Since the school pre-dates 1910 and continues to operate today as Sugar Grove Elementary and Middle School, there were a lot of them. They returned to Smyth County from California, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, South Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, West Virginia, Tennessee, Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and from cities and towns all over Virginia.

Five years have passed and they are coming back again for a second reunion. While no one is sticking their neck out to predict an attendance in excess of that first reunion, pre-registration indicates that the reunion to be held on Aug. 12 will be well attended. There will be some attending the 1995 reunion who were unable to make the first one held in 1990.



Helen Ford, Ola Currin, Nora Hamm, Virginia Currin and Janell Keesling are among the students taking time out from their studies around 1930.

According to Felicia Robbins, chairman of the 1995 reunion committee, so far the oldest person to pre-register for this year is a member of the school's graduating Class of 1929. Young or old, all those who will be attending have an interesting story to tell.

Based on the history of the 1990 reunion, among those who will be arriving in Smyth County for this year's activity there could be the pilot who flew President Harry Truman to many of the spots he traveled to, at least one FBI agent, and at least one, if not more, agents with the Justice Department.

Students from the Sugar Grove School, which at one time included all 12 public school grades, have furthered their education to become teachers, ministers, factory workers, machinists, physicians, railroad engineers, social workers, owners and operators of business and industry, chief executive officers, certified public accountants and chief financial officers, veterinarians, school principals, college professors, regional supervisors with the Department of Transportation, industrial engineers, pianists, counselors to the disabled, poets, artists, plumbers, bank tellers, pharmacists, dentists, members of the board of education, administrative assistant in the office of the president of the United States, coaches, magazine publishers, hair dressers, county commissioners, state policemen, medical records technicians, university librarian, registered nurses, housewives, beef cattle farmers, occupational therapists, at least one chief of police and a county sheriff, inventors, photographers, a U. S. Congressman, floral designers, and the list goes on and on.

Some former Sugar Grove students will return to the place of their birth with a success story. Others will come with their heartbreak. Some will not come at all. One thing is for certain, among their numbers will be those who have made their mark and are now retired; many of whom have returned from earning a living in various parts of the United States to spend their golden years in Smyth County. Perhaps there will be the couple who had only one son, lost at a tender age in an electrical storm. Those who will not be attending include the heroes who sacrificed their lives in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to further the cause of justice and freedom. The missing will include the minister who drowned during a boating accident in a fishing expedition and a former U. S.

■ See **REUNITE**, Page B12



The Sugar Grove School baseball team was ready for action in 1952. Front row: Jeff Haulsee, Rector Currin, David Woods, R.J. Hall, Tom Barker, Johnny Barton, Preston Richardson and Carroll Robbins. Back row: Charles Hoffman, Robert Ward, Max Janell, Coach Bob Coulthard, Rex Burse, Tommy Musick, Bobby Richardson and Ralph Rotenberry.

Sugar Grove students to reunite this weekend

■ **REUNITE**, from Page B1

Congressmen who died in a farming accident.

Former Congressman W. Pat Jennings Sr. sponsored and organized the 1990 reunion, which was a huge success. From the speaker's podium, Jennings suggested a repeat every five years, and his suggestion met with loud applause.

A committee to organize the 1995 "Gathering in of the Maple Leaves," had already been formed and planning was in progress when the former U. S. Congressman was involved in a fatal accident in August 1994.

On Aug. 12, when old friends come together, there will be a lot of rejoicing. There will also be moments when those who are not present are remembered. Most of all, each and every one who attends will be in touch with the early years of their life and the individuals who made the difference for them.

Robbins emphasized that the Aug. 12 reunion at Sugar Grove School is for anyone who has ever attended Sugar Grove School, and anyone who has an interest in the school, such as family and friends. Registration begins at 2 p.m. There will be a variety of activities planned throughout the afternoon that will bring back a lot of memories.

The deadline for former students, teachers, and principals to submit a brief life history since school days was June 15. Histories submitted prior to this date will be included in the school history/picture book/updated directory that will be available at the reunion. Individuals who have not already done so may still submit a history to Donald Bonham, Rt. 1, Box 255A, Sugar Grove, VA 24375. Late submissions will be included in a subsequent update and the individual submitting the history will be added to the reunion mailing list.

According to Robbins, a catered meal consisting of two meats, four vegetables, three salads, two desserts, rolls and drinks will be served at 4:30 p.m. for those who purchased tickets in advance. Robbins stressed, however, that the event is open to anyone ever connected in any way with the Sugar Grove School and that meal participation is not a requirement.

Following meal time and socializing, a special program will be presented at 7 p.m. Among recognitions and other items, the program will consist of awards for the oldest attendee, the one who traveled the greatest distance, etc. In addition, there will be a memorial service for those who have passed away since the original reunion held in 1990.

Those interested in more information may contact: Felicia Robbins, chairperson, 540-646-8913; Donald Bonham, treasurer, 540-677-3588; Leon Anderson, 540-677-3124; Clayton Horne, 540-228-2716, or Jack Taylor, 540-677-3553.

Going home again: Sugar Grovers reunite for a day

Who says you can't go home again? On Saturday, Aug. 12, approximately 900 former students and teachers of the Sugar Grove School did. They attended homeroom, shook hands with familiar faces, and embraced the dear hearts that retain a place in their favorite memories.

It was the second reunion for those who attended or taught at the school at any time since classes were first held in 1910. Many who were unable to attend the first reunion, held in 1990, made it for this one. They came from California, Washington, Alabama, Florida, Texas, Arizona—virtually every state in the Union.

Mary Combs Nelson, a graduate of the Class of 1949, flew in from her home in Mossyrock, Washington, a small town close to Seattle. She returned home with the award for the alumnus traveling the greatest distance.

Standing in a long line to register was one of only two glitches that occurred in the otherwise, well-organized afternoon and evening. The second glitch was the 90-degree weather.

The reunion was held inside the building that was constructed in 1935, after the former structure had burned. Doors and windows were opened. Electric fans were everywhere. Older folks were excused from homeroom and invited to circulate in the school's new library building, which is air conditioned. Many local residents also took advantage of the opportunity to view for the first time the school's most recent addition.

The old school has never been filled with people having a better time. They completely filled the hallways until there was hardly space to walk, mainly because so many spotted familiar faces. With the recognition, there came a squeal of pleasure, a warm embrace, and words of greeting. Only the push of the crowd nudged the reunited friends out of the hallway for a game of catch up.

Homeroom was assigned by graduating year. For example, graduates in the years 1960 through 1963 gathered in one room. In each room the "students" were given a questionnaire to complete. They were asked to name the most popular song the year they graduated, to give their favorite song, to name their favorite color, etc. The results were tallied by homeroom and read during the program that began at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.



The voices of the combined choir didn't get rusty over the years. Here the group entertains with a song.

Munsey Horne, an 84-year-old Sugar Grove resident, walked away with the award for the graduate who has lived the most years in the same house. She has lived her entire life in the same home. Two male graduates who make the same claim were in contention for the award, but Horne, by virtue of her age, blew them out of the water.

The alumni honor for the largest family of graduates in attendance went to the Robbins family. That's the family of Felicia Robbins, chairwoman for the 1995 reunion planning committee. Although some traveled from other states, many members of this family reside throughout Southwest Virginia.

Approximately 15 teachers attended the reunion. Nellie Crigger Ross, a graduate of the Sugar Grove Class of 1929, was recognized as the oldest teacher. Ed Goode of West Palm Beach, Fla. was recognized as the teacher traveling the greatest distance. Goode has family still living in the area. He arrived in Bristol on Thursday where he visited until Saturday's school reunion.

Among the former Sugar Grove teachers was Francis York, who now resides in Swampscott, Massachusetts. He took the 5:30 a.m. flight out of Boston on Saturday to arrive in time for the reunion. York held a teaching position at the school for one year only, 1964. Memories of that year were enough to bring him back after 31 years.

Also recognized during the program were approximately half a dozen former Miss Rye Valleys and Miss Sugar Groves who were in attendance.

The best kept secret of the event came during recognition of the school's former athletes. Elmer Phillipi, a member of the school's football team in 1940, recited the history of the only football team the school ever had. Harold Jones was the coach. The surprise was the 1940 Sugar Grove football jerseys that were presented to team members in attendance: Elmer Phillipi, Johnny McWaters and Kelly Keesling. Jerseys were also presented to relatives of deceased team members.

School t-shirts and caps were on sale throughout the afternoon. Orders was taken for the school directory and updated student history books that will be available in several months. Approximately 100 new pictures were received, many of which will be included in the updated directory. Individuals wishing information about the directory may contact Jack Taylor at 540-677-3553, or Donald Bonham at 540-677-3588.

Many arrived with picnic dinners, but the 4:30 p.m. dinner-on-the-grounds catered by the 4-H Center in Abingdon served more than 400 persons. Proceeds from all sales will go to the school toward the purchase of additional computers.

On Saturday morning, the re-

■ See **GROVERS**, Page B12

Sugar Grovers reunite

■ **GROVERS**, from Page B1

union crew was at the school before 9 a.m. and worked straight through 11:30 p.m. Bonham said, "A whole lot of people put in a whole lot of good work. It was more than a community effort. We had help from all over. Rescue Squads were on standby throughout the day. Funeral homes, fire departments, and rescue squads loaned us chairs. Mr. Hambric, principal, School Superintendent Marvin Winters and members of the Smyth County School Board opened up the school facilities for us. We enjoyed tremendous cooperation all the way."

When Saturday's program ended at approximately 9 p.m., a CD player in the auditorium was calling to those who still enjoy tripping the light fantastic. Other school associates hung around to help with the cleanup.

"There were enough people volunteered for cleanup that we had secured the school buildings, returned all the chairs and borrowed items and were ready for home until the next reunion in five more years," Taylor reported.

For members of the planning committee, the event is still not over. Within the next week or so, the committee will meet to look at possible ways of improving on what was a very enjoyable and highly successful affair. Suggestions will be reduced to writing and passed along to the next planning committee.

Asked if she will consider being chairperson for the reunion to be held in the year 2000, Robbins said, "I don't know about that. Its a lot of work."

Almost everyone agreed that it is well worth the effort. ❑



Jim Cunningham

The Sugar Grove eighth grade girls' basketball team. Front row, from left: Mandy Pruitt, Julia Thompson and Sara Zilles. Back row: Amy Alls, Laura Evans, Jessica Dempsey and Rebecca Young.

SIMPLE PLASTIC CANVAS IDEAS



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Jim Cunningham

The Sugar Grove seventh grade girls' basketball team. Front row, from left: Heather Dutton, Candance Edwards and manager Jenniper Dewell. Back row: Coach Jane Larimer, Erika Barnette, Karen Dewell and Cara Brooks.

Tracks of Time



Sugar Grove's 1952 cheerleading squad included Tootsie Keyes, Helen Russell, Pat Dixon and Joan Calhoun.



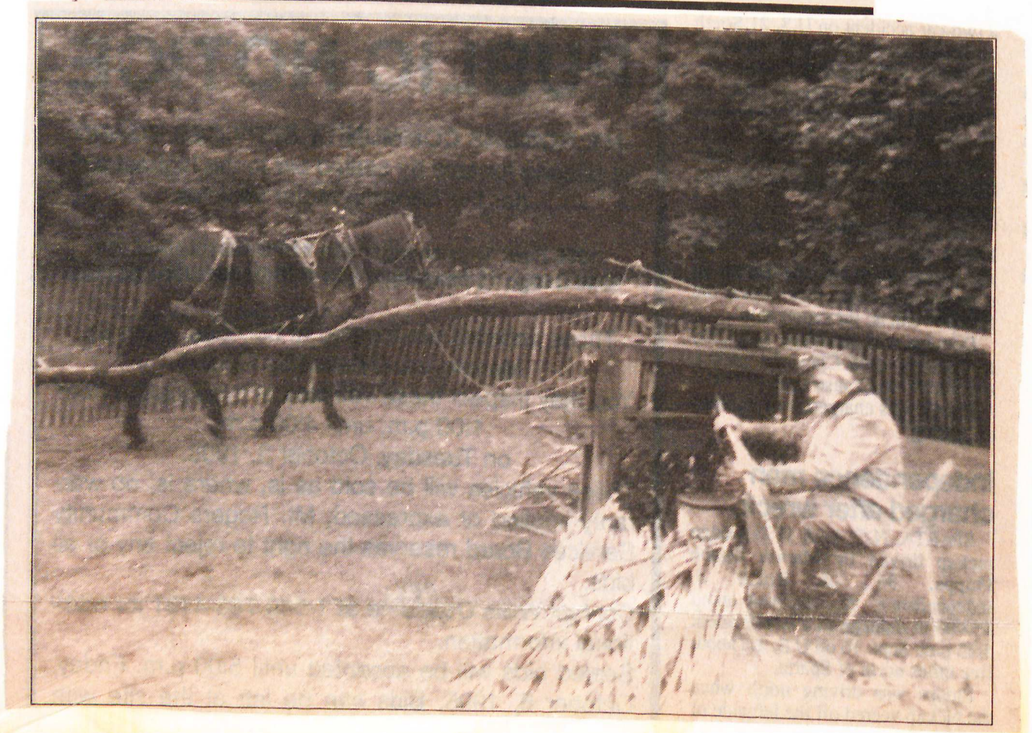
SUGAR GROVE SCHOOL REUNION. The Sugar Grove School Reunion (for anyone who has attended the school at any time and their family and friends) will be held on Aug. 12 at 2 pm at the school. There will be a catered evening meal available for $10 per adult, less for children. You may attend free but should you wish a meal, please contact Donald Bonham at (540) 677-3588 to confirm or prepay. Any proceeds made from this event will be donated back to the school.



REMEMBER WHEN?–Ah, those were the good ole days. This postcard, sent sometime around 1915, depicts Marion as it used to be – one quaint, quiet town. (Photo submitted by Joe Sayers of Marion)



This photo of an old Sugar Grove baseball team (year unknown) was recently submitted by Peggy Thomas of Sugar Grove. Front row, from left: Wright, J. Ward, Crockett and Cox. Back row: Currin (manager), Carson, C. Ward, Dutton and Hutton.



SEPTEMBER 1995

Leaders - Polly and Eva
Creative Arts - jewelery
Finish projects started last meeting
Discussed programs for next year



Thelma shows Nell and Dottie about work on plastic canvas



Dottie won door prize

Check it out



Don Simmons Jr.

Soon students won't be the only ones who can check out books at the Sugar Grove Combined School library. The Smyth-Bland Regional Library will open its satellite branch at the school Thursday, Sept. 7. Read all about it on Page A10.

Silver Awards

■ **SCOUTS**, from Page A12

Jessica Eller, Heather Thompson, both of Sugar Grove Middle School. These Girl Scouts worked together to help set up and organize the school's new library. As part of their project, they had to help move all of the books from the former library to the site of the new library. They also helped catalog the books.

Mandy Pruitt, Julia Thompson, both students at Chilhowie Middle School. These Girl Scouts worked together toward their Silver Award by cleaning up Hungry Mother Park, Marion, and a flea market. The girls raked leaves, picked up litter, and bagged trash. For their efforts, they were honored by the mayor of Marion as well.

The Girl Scout Silver Award recognizes the effort of girls to combine their Girl Scout experiences with a commitment toward improving their lives and the lives of others. Requirements for the Silver Award help Girl Scouts to build their skills, offers them a chance to explore career opportunities, helps them increase their leadership skills, and provides them with the opportunity for self-improvement.

Library expands service

Sugar Grove to reap the benefits

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

Sugar Grove residents will have access to everything in the regional library's catalog, including videos, CDs, cassette tapes, and reference materials.

Once-a-month visits from the bookmobile will soon be a thing of the past in Sugar Grove. Instead, county, school and library officials have decided to make the most of the new library at Sugar Grove Combined School.

Beginning with a grand opening Thursday, Sept. 7, the Smyth-Bland Regional Library will begin operating out of the school's library every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Sugar Grove residents will have access to everything in the regional library's catalog, including videos, CDs, cassette tapes, and reference materials. Residents and students will also be able to check-out materials from the school library.

The Smyth-Bland Regional Library will fill 12 shelves with books on a regular basis, but lists of other available materials will also be at the school library. A book or tape request made on a Tuesday should be available by the following Thursday, said Sam Hambrick, principal of Sugar Grove Combined School.

Hambrick brought the idea to local officials after attending a seminar on joint-use facilities at Virginia Highlands Community College.

"When I heard the idea, I thought it would work well with our new library," said Hambrick. "It's received strong support from our school superintendent, the School Board and the Board of Supervisors. The supervisors were happy to get the multi-use out of money they had already spent."

The Sugar Grove School Library itself got a new home last December. Local architect Cameron Wolfe designed the new facility, which was converted from the school's old gymnasium/auditorium. Glass brick features and sunlit, recessed windows bathe the library in natural light.

The library has a catalog of 4,500 books, not including the material being made available through the regional library.

"This is a much more effective way of providing library services to the people of Sugar Grove and Rye Valley," said Bill Goodrich, executive director of the Smyth-Bland Regional Library. The regional library already has branches in Marion, Bland and Saltville.

Goodrich says the library's entire collection of adult fiction, nonfiction, reference, music and video material will now be available to Sugar Grove residents without their having to make a special trip into Marion.

"We will also be able to swap with other libraries," he said.

Hambrick says he encourages parents to bring their children with them when visiting during the regional library hours.

"From a library and educational point of view, we want children to get used to going to the library on their own time, not just during school," Hambrick explained. "Hopefully, visiting the library will develop into a life-long habit."

Refreshments and door prizes, including an oak rocking chair from Virginia House, will be given away at the grand opening, Thursday, Sept. 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. ❑

Gross wins pageant

Alli Danielle Gross, daughter of Ronnie and Sherry Gross of Sugar Grove, won the title of Miss Southern Rainbow Labor Day Queen in the pageant held Sept. 3 at Rural Retreat.

She was also chosen Most Photogenic, Prettiest Hair, Best Smile and Best Personality. She also holds the title of Miss Southern Rainbow Summerfest Queen.

Alli has an older brother Dustin. She is the granddaughter of Gail Hayden, and Bob and Phyllis Gillespie. Her great-grandparents are Melissa Crewey and Dave and Helen Evans, all of Marion. ❑



Alli Gross



Eva's New Grandson
Jonathon Adam Jarvis



Jeff Jarvis and Son
William Thomas Jarvis

Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Washington County Extension Office
468 East Main Street, Suite 114
Abingdon, VA 24210
540/628-2161
FAX 540/628-9720

September 1995

Extension ANSWERS: HOME ECONOMICS

Dear Friend,

Time flies, it is hard to believe the hot days of summer '95 are gone and the cool crisp days of Fall are with us. The past few weeks have been busy for all the Home Economists in Area III as we worked with you to get those summer questions answered. Examples of questions that you will find us answering in the summer include such things as helping parents and children make decisions about how to treat homesickness at camp, how to make sure the food you take to the family reunion is safe and sanitary, or how to get all those summer stains out of the family clothing.

We hope that you will continue to call if we can be of assistance. You can reach the Extension Offices in Area III at the following numbers:

Bland County	688-3542
Carroll County	728-7611
Grayson County	773-2491
Smyth County	783-5175
Washington County	628-2161
Wythe County	223-6040

We would like to hear from you if you have any comments regarding this newsletter. We want to continue to prepare a newsletter that is helpful to you.

As with any Extension publication, reference to brand names in this newsletter is used only as an example, and is not intended to encourage or discourage the use of these products. No endorsement is intended.

Sincerely,

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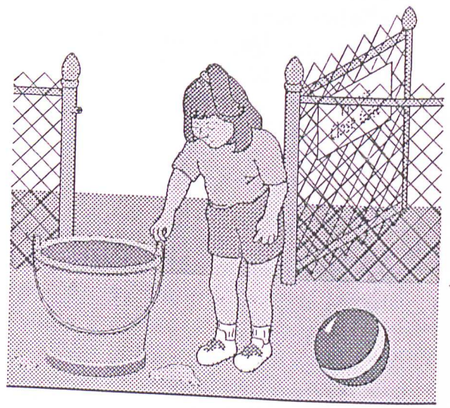
DON'T JUDGE A BURGER BY ITS COLOR

When the hamburger turns brown it is ready to eat, right? WRONG! Looks can be deceiving. Some beef will develop a brownish tan look long before it is done enough to kill bacteria that can cause food-borne illness.

So instead of checking the color of the meat for doneness, check the color of the meats juices. The juices should show no trace of pink color but instead should be yellowish.

BUCKET SAFETY

Do not leave cleaning buckets containing even small amounts of liquid unattended. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that young children can drown in very small amounts of liquid. Toddlers are "top heavy," and if they topple into a bucket, it may not tip over and they could drown. Five-gallon industrial containers, such as those used to package lawn care or home maintenance products, are especially dangerous. These containers are often brought home for use in household chores. They are very sturdy and do not tip over easily.



****

Cleaning Hints

- √ Wear gloves to protect hands.
- √ Use the simplest, mildest cleaner that will complete the job.
- √ Never mix bleach with ammonia or products that contain these ingredients. A poisonous gas will be produced.
- √ Always read the label on any cleaning products you use.

REFRIGERATOR COILS

Have you cleaned the condenser coils on your refrigerator recently? Remember this is a job that needs to be done every other month. Condenser coils are either located below or behind the refrigerator. Vacuum lint and dust from the coils. This will help make your refrigerator more energy efficient.

What about the defrost pan? This job needs to be done at least twice a year. Remove the base grill. Remove defrost pan and wash with warm soapy water. Rinse and dry. Replace the pan and the grill.

OCTOBER 1995

Leader - Pres. Eva Jarvis
Project - Simple Christmas Decorations
Roberta and Genevieve





Eating - on Trip To Burks Garden

NOVEMBER 1995

Leader-Thelma
Program
Polly and Eva
a Thanksgiving Meal



Supervisor's Luncheon
Eva Jarvis





Polly Earnest
Helps clean up

19th ANNUAL
FOREST FANTASY

will be held
1st United Methodist Church
Marion, VA

Saturday, November 4
9 a.m. to 2 p .m.



HANDMADE CRAFTS, HOME-BAKED GOODS, CANDIES
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Fall 1995

OLD DOMINION ECHOES

Vol. X No. II

ODE Editor: Rosetta W. Harris (540) 828-6273 Publications Chair: Geraldine Engle (540) 885-0248

President's Page



Isabelle Kimmeth
1994-95

Hello:

It has been quite a summer! First, too much rain — now, high temperatures. However, I suppose that is what summer is all about. I hope you are surviving.

I am pleased to say we have 2,866 members — and don't forget you can join any time. I appreciate your interest in our programs.

The biggest change this year has been the retirement of many of our agents. This will require each one of us to take over more and more of our organization. Everyone knows the Executive Board is ready to help if requested.

I trust you will participate in the Fall Regional Meetings which have been formulated by our hard-working program chairs, FCL members and Regional Directors. They need your support to make these Meetings well attended events. Herbert Spencer said, "You stay young as long as you learn."

The Executive Board voted to allow each Region to apply for $100.00 to be used for marketing activities associated with the regional meetings. Submit your plans to the Marketing Committee for their consideration — send to Ann Dancy, Chair, Marketing Committee, 2410 Hillanne Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-2163. This money is in addition to the $100.00 each region can request from the State Treasurer for conducting the regional meetings.

I want to welcome Irene Leach, Interim Associate Director, Home Economics, who is replacing Mike Sporakowski at Virginia Tech.

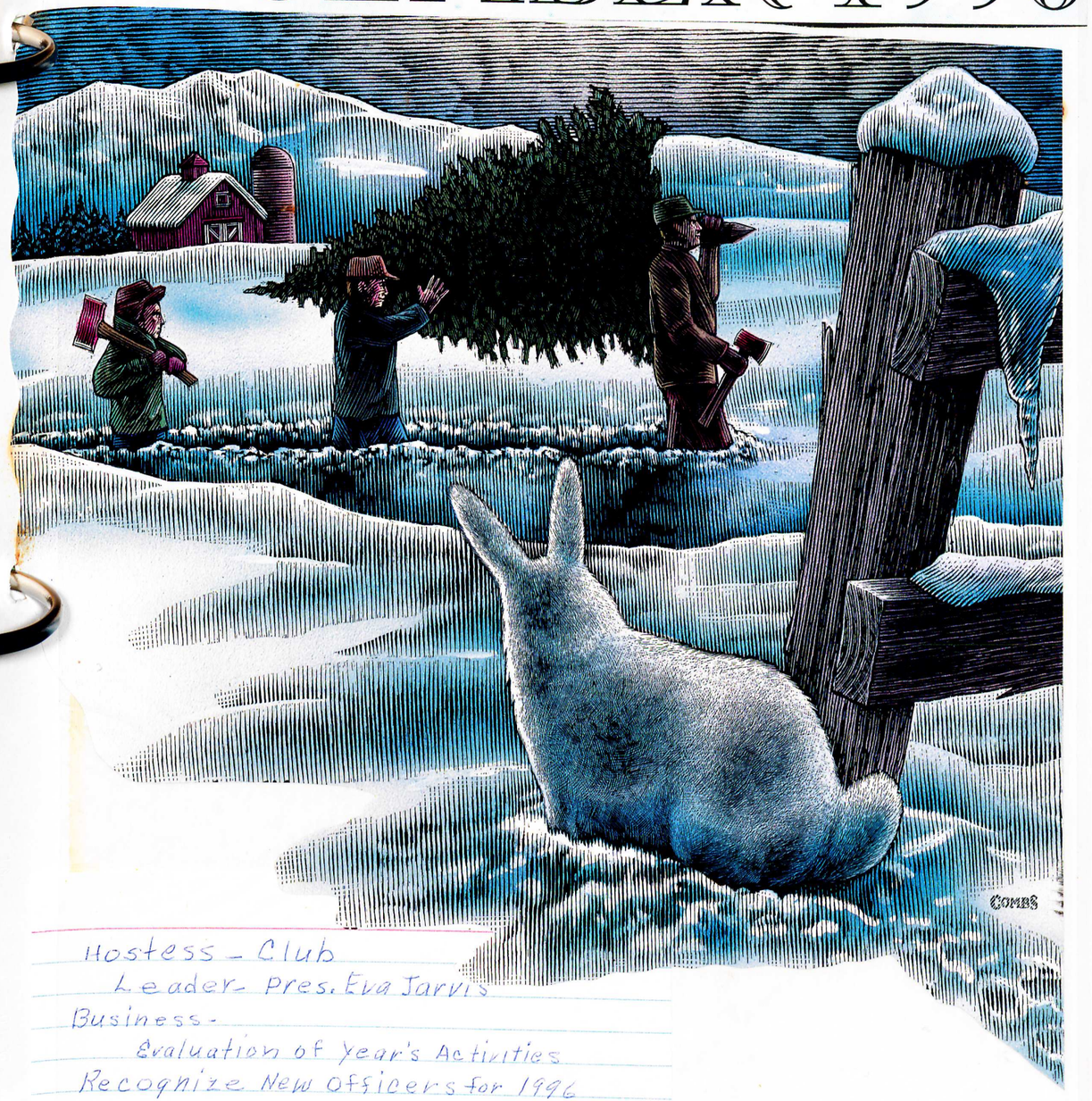
Also, don't forget the Annual Meeting in Charlottesville — details in this issue. I am looking forward to seeing you.

I want to close with this — Confucius said long ago, but still true today, "The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its Homes."

Isabelle Kimmeth
President VAFCE

'Twas the night before Jesus came

DECEMBER 1995



Hostess - Club
Leader - Pres. Eva Jarvis
Business -
Evaluation of year's Activities
Recognize New Officers for 1996
Think about New programs
Program - Clubs Choice
Pot Luck
Christmas Meal

'Twas the night before Jesus came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand.
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!